

UNCLASSIFIED

DEPARTMENT OF THE ARMY
THE ADJUTANT GENERAL'S OFFICE
WASHINGTON

3618
Master

UNCLASSIFIED

54-299

DO NOT REMOVE FROM THIS OFFICE

Ops in FRANCE - 36th Inf Div

DEPARTMENTAL RECORDS BRANCH, A.G.O.**HISTORICAL RECORDS SECTION****ROOM MB-858 PENTAGON**

Oct 1944

DECLASSIFIED
Authority NND 735612
By NARA Date 4/14/03

~~SECRET~~

AUTH: CG, 36th INF. DIV.
INITIAL: *2/mf*
DATE: 20 NOV 1944

~~SECRET~~

A13307

HEADQUARTERS 36TH INFANTRY DIVISION
APO #36, U. S. ARMY

OPERATIONS IN FRANCE
OCTOBER 1944

L-1021

336-0.3

NARRATIVE

CLASSIFICATION CANCELLED TO:
CANCELLED
BY AUTHORITY OF THE ADJUTANT GENERAL
G.B. McCarty Capt AGC
DOWNGRADING 18 Mar 46

~~SECRET~~

3618
Master

~~SECRET~~

UNCLASSIFIED

HEADQUARTERS 36TH INFANTRY DIVISION
APO #36, U. S. Army

AG 312

20 November 1944

SUBJECT: Historical Records.

TO : The Adjutant General, Washington 25, D. C.

In compliance with Paragraph 10, AR 345-105, as amended by Change 3, dated 9 March 1943, the attached report of operations is hereby submitted for the month of ~~September~~ *October* 1944.

John E. Dahlquist
JOHN E. DAHLQUIST
Major General, U. S. Army
Commanding

36-0.3

L-1921

CLASSIFICATION CHANGED TO:
CANCELLED
BY AUTHORITY OF THE ADJUTANT GENERAL
T.O. McCarty
DOWNGRADING COMMITTEE *18 Mar 46*
Coyt add

3668
Hansen

~~SECRET~~

~~SECRET~~

INDEX

UNCLASSIFIED

<u>SUBJECT</u>	<u>PAGE</u>
Letter of Transmittal.....	1
Index.....	2- 3
Narrative.....	4-16
Casualties by State.....	17-19
Casualties by Unit.....	20
Strength Report.....	21-31
Battle Losses of Material.....	32-34
Ammunition Expenditure.....	35-43
Roster of Commanders.....	44-46

MAPS

The following series of maps will only be found in the original copy of the Division History, and in the file copies retained in Headquarters 36th Infantry Division.

FRANCE - 1:100,000	15-G	LUNEVILLE, EPINAL.....	47
	15-H	GERARDMER, LURE.....	48
1:50,000	XXXV-17	RAMBERVILLERS.....	49
	XXXV-18	BRUYERES.....	50
	XXXVI-17	ST DIE.....	51
	XXXVI-18	GERARDMER.....	52

6-1021
UNCLASSIFIED

~~SECRET~~

~~SECRET~~

ANNEXES

1. G-1 Journal*
 2. G-2 Journal*
 3. G-3 Journal*
 4. G-4 Journal*
 5. Decorations Report*

 6. 141st Infantry Regiment
 7. 142nd Infantry Regiment
 8. 143rd Infantry Regiment
 9. Division Artillery
 10. 131st Field Artillery Battalion
 11. 132nd Field Artillery Battalion
 12. 133rd Field Artillery Battalion
 13. 155th Field Artillery Battalion
 14. 111th Engineer (C) Battalion
 15. 111th Medical Battalion
 16. 36th Quartermaster Company
 17. 736th Ordnance (IM) Company
 18. Military Police Platoon
 19. 36th Signal Company
 20. 36th Cavalry Ren Tr (Mcz)
 21. Special Troops
- 636th + D Bn and 753 Tank Bn. are withdrawn,
forwarded separately.*

* Items flagged by asterisk are being forwarded in original only.

~~SECRET~~

~~SECRET~~

HEADQUARTERS 36TH INFANTRY DIVISION
APO #36, U. S. ARMY

NARRATIVE
OCTOBER 1944

UNCLASSIFIED

01 October 1944

At beginning of period, 141 RCT had elements vic V-207517, V-214510, and had secured bridge on E side of LEPANGES; 143 RCT occupied high ground overlooking LEPANGES from the NE; and 142 RCT further strengthened positions on Hill 827 against repeated enemy infiltration attempts. 3rd Bn, 141 RCT (attached to 142 RCT) at 0800A hours pushed to positions on Northern tip of Hill 827. By 1200A hours, 141 RCT (minus 3rd Bn) had advanced to high ground vic V-225508 without contact, and positions were further secured vic V-2250. 142 RCT was engaged with estimated 50 enemy on northeastern tip of Hill 827, as other elements attacked enemy roadblock at V-227433. 143 RCT pushed elements through LEPANGES without contact, and 2nd Bn moved to assembly area vic CHARMOIS. During afternoon and evening, 01 October, 141 RCT (minus 3rd Bn) pushed elements towards V-232508 and high ground vic V-226523, as 2nd Bn in advance to the NE reached V-236516 and V-228514 and secured positions for the night against moderate resistance. 142 RCT breached enemy roadblock at V-227454 at 1310A hours, against heavy opposition, and secured high ground on either side of road. 143 RCT advanced from Hill 728 and encountered enemy arty and MG fire enroute to Hill 783 (V-241505). At end of period: 141 RCT had secured high ground vic V-2251, V-2351, the town of ST JEAN DU MARCHE, and OP overlooking HOUX, but Co "C" was forced to withdraw to vic PREY after running into SA, SP, and mortar fire in attack on Hill 609; 142 RCT held line V-2345 to V-228457 and point vic V-223461, but roadblock sector vic LE CREUX (V-2345) was not completely clear; 143 RCT (minus 2nd Bn in assembly area vic V-203484) occupied positions vic V-2248, V-225487, and V-234486, with patrols toward LAVELINE.

02 October 1944

141 RCT (minus 3rd Bn) resumed attack against Hill 609 at 0630A hours against moderate resistance; 142 RCT continued pressure against stubborn enemy resistance around LE CREUX; and 143 RCT moved elements towards Hill 783 (V-2451) and town of LAVELINE DU HOUS, against scattered enemy resistance. By 1200A hours, 141 RCT had reduced enemy resistance vic V-246516, after killing estimated 50 Germans, and 1st Bn was mopping up hill vic V-226525; 143 RCT elements had reached nose at V-236495 V-232495, against enemy SA and mortar fire, 1st Bn pushing forward in sector against reported 120 enemy and 142 RCT established contact with 30th Inf to E of LE CREUX and further consolidated positions on Hill 827 and was fighting on wooded slopes against continued enemy infiltration. At 1800A hours, 141 RCT reported no ground opposition in sector, but 2nd Bn, vic V-237517 and V-246516, received heavy shelling; 142 RCT reported scattered enemy detachments on eastern slope Hill 827;

~~SECRET~~

UNCLASSIFIED

~~SECRET~~

02 October 1944 (continued)

143 RCT continued advance, occupying LAVELINE and sector vic V-2450, V-2449, V-2348, and roadblock vic V-3448. Little change was reported in positions at close of period, but artillery fire continued throughout the sector.

03 October 1944

At beginning of period, 141 RCT had seized Hill 609, pushed to the NE to vic V-235510 and V-231531, as daylight attack was launched against stubborn resistance. 3rd Bn (attached 142 RCT) held position on northern slopes Hill 827 throughout the period. 142 RCT: 1st and 2nd Bns Div reserve vic V-2147 and V-1947, as 3rd Bn held positions vic V-224461 and maintained roadblock at V-223453. 143 RCT: 1st Bn continued advance against MG and mortar fire, and at 0910A hours had reached objective V-2451 and established roadblock at V-234503, as 3rd Bn advanced to position vic V-244494 and V-244484. By 1200A hours, 141 RCT armored elements from vic PREY had advanced to vic V-2451, and 1st Bn was in contact with the enemy vic V-235508. 142 RCT prepared to attack due N from Hill 827 (V-237469) with one company of the 3rd Bn, 142nd Inf, to take over sector of 3rd Bn, 141 RCT, after jump off. 143 RCT had 1st Bn advancing vic V-245507 and V-242503, as 3rd Bn vic V-2449 encountered MG and mortar resistance. During latter part of period, 1st Bn, 141st Inf, had advanced to vic V-246517 and continued mopping-up in sector along HOUX-HERPELMONT road; 2nd Bn moved to high ground V-244527 against SP and arty fire, as combat patrols were pushed to vic V-255535, without contact. Co F, 142nd Inf (reinf), relieved 3rd Bn, 142nd Inf, position at 2330A hours, 3rd Bn assembling vic V-214479. 1st Bn, 141st Inf (attached 142 RCT) continued close-in contact with enemy in sector; 143 RCT--1st Bn advanced to position vic V-241502 overlooking LES ROUGE CHATEAU, and fought small scale engagements against enemy positions vic V-248502.

04 October 1944

At beginning of period, 141 RCT reported 1st Bn sector quiet after SA patrol clash at 0100A hours, and 2nd Bn made patrol contact with enemy at V-248528; 142 RCT reported relief of 3rd Bn by Co F at 0015A hours. At 0600A hours, 3rd Bn, 141 Inf (attached to 142 RCT) was preparing to assault objective vic V-235472 to V-237473, and 143 RCT patrols reported enemy vehicular movement in LES ROUGE CHATEAU. At 0800A hours, 141 RCT reported following locations: 1st Bn vic V-245515, 2nd Bn vic V-247524; 143 RCT reported 1st Bn vic V-246505, V-243499, facing LES ROUGE CHATEAU. At 1000A hours, 143 RCT was moving on LES ROUGE CHATEAU, as 141 RCT pushed elements 2nd Bn to vic V-254528 without contact. At 1300A hours, 141 RCT reported Co I vic V-236472, receiving SA and arty opposition, with enemy in occupation of high ground vic V-243473. 143 RCT: 1st Bn moving on LES ROUGE CHATEAU, encountered enemy infantry and arty opposition plus SP fire, 2nd Bn encountered scattered enemy detachments in edge of woods vic V-244489. At 1300A hours, 141 RCT reported 2nd Bn on objective NW of HERPELMONT (V-256530) with patrols operating into town, with 1st Bn preparing to attack Hill 676 at 1400A hours. Patrols to SE as far as V-251511 reported no contact. At the same time, 143 RCT reported cleaning up of valley vic E of LES ROUGE CHATEAU, reducing enemy resistance by platoon attack supported by arty and heavy weapons fire. 142 RCT, in occupation of Hill

~~SECRET~~

~~SECRET~~

04 October 1944

827 during night and morning, pushed elements of Co F to vic V-233456, as elements 3rd Bn, 141st Inf, advanced toward RUPT, against sniper and MG fire. At 1600A hours: 141 RCT reported elements 3rd Bn on objective V-239475 to V-238471, organizing positions for night; and 143 RCT reported 2nd Bn vic V-2449 and V-2448, with 1st Bn vic V-248505. At the same time, 141 RCT reported attack by estimated 100 enemy against positions of Co E and F. At 1800A hours: 1st Bn, 141st Inf, was reported on objective V-2652 in SA fight, as 2nd Bn fought off strong enemy attack from vic V-247530. At 1900A hours 143 RCT reported 1st Bn on Hill 763 (V-252505) with 2nd Bn vic V-243484, V-244486, and roadblock at V-242483. LES ROUGE CHATEAU clear. At end of period, 141 RCT reported attack against 2nd Bn repulsed without loss of ground -- 17 PWs taken.

05 October 1944

At beginning of period, RCTs prepared to strengthen hill positions by local attacks at daylight. Very little enemy activity reported during night. At 0800A hours, roadblock on HERPELMONT road reported clear, and tanks and TDs of 141 RCT started forward from vic V-237508. 142 RCT reported attack by 3rd Bn of 141 RCT was making little progress, as 2nd Bn, 142 RCT, moved up to assist in attack. Roadblock maintained vic LE CREUX, but 400 yards abatis of felled trees beyond block was covered by enemy small arms fire from the SE. At 0900A hours, 143 RCT reported 2nd Bn in SA contact vic V-248489. At 1200A hours, 141 RCT reported 1st Bn positions organized vic HERPELMONT, but enemy infiltrations threatened supply lines from vic V-254520. 2nd Bn reported in heavy fire fight, as elements Co E were pinned down vic V-253528. 143 RCT reported 2nd Bn positions vic V-244451 and 1st Bn vic V-248494 and around slopes Hill 763, as 3rd Bn from assembly vic V-2350 prepared to attack through LES ROUGES CHATEAU against Hill 808 from the NW. At 1400A hours, 1st Bn, 141st Inf, vic V-258519 and V-262518, was threatened by strong enemy force working between positions and roadblock vic V-252518, 2nd Bn reported hill well secured vic V-252527 to V-248521. At 1500A hours, 143 RCT reported 1st Bn mopping-up Hill 763, 2nd Bn in position overlooking REHAUPAL from vic V-245484 and V-243482, with 3rd Bn advancing towards Hill 808 from vic V-253494 against light opposition. At the same time, 142 RCT reported 3rd Bn, 141st Inf, and 2nd Bn 142nd Inf, heavily engaged against enemy dug-in positions in north tip of Hill 827. At 1700A hours, 142 RCT attack reported progressing satisfactorily, and 143 RCT reported 2nd Bn on objective vic V-249474 and 3rd Bn forward elements vic V-254494. At 2100A hours, 142 RCT reported 1st Bn relieving 3rd Bn, 141st Inf, in position. Elements 2nd Bn, 142nd Inf, advanced to position overlooking RUPT and REHAUPAL road, organized position for night vic V-242466. Co F moving to vic V-240457 to protect right flank. At 2100A hours, 143 RCT reported position in sector secure.

06 October 1944

At 0100A hours, 1st Bn, 142nd Inf, completed relief of 3rd Bn, 141st Inf, on Hill 827. 3rd Bn, 141st Inf, closed LE BOULAY at 0300A hours. At 0900A hours, 3rd Bn, 143rd Inf, from positions vic V-254496 to V-252498, prepared to attack Hill 809.

~~SECRET~~

~~SECRET~~

06 October 1944 (continued)

At 1200A hours, elements 142nd Inf were engaged in mopping-up slopes of Hill 827, against scattered enemy detachments; and 3rd Bn, 143rd Inf, reported on objective vic V-258490 and V-255492. 753rd Tk Bn (M), with attachments, continued to protect left flank of the Div vic FAYS, and maintained contact with 179th Inf to the NE. At 1600A hours, 3rd Bn, 143rd Inf, reported objective secure and positions organized, and 1st Bn, 143rd Inf, established contact with elements 142nd Inf vic V-242484. 142nd Inf pushed strong patrols into the woods vic V-239468 and towards RUPT. 141 RCT reported 1st Bn elements vic V-254518 to V-2552, as 2nd Bn encountered SA and mortar fire vic V-243527. At 1800A hours, 142 RCT reported RUPT clear and patrols were pushing to E and SE. At end of period, 141 RCT held positions astride ST JEAN DU MARCHE - HERPELMONT road, vic V-254520 - V-254537 - V-253528, with roadblock vic V-250514, enemy contact reported in sector towards HERPELMONT; 143 RCT held positions on Hill 763, vic V-252505, and Hill 808 (V-257487), and maintained contact on LAVELINE - REHAUPAL road with 142 RCT, who held positions extending through RUPT and around southwestern and southern slopes of Hill 827, including roadblock vic LE CREUX.

07 October 1944

At beginning of period, 143 RCT patrols reported enemy in REHAUPAL and CHAMPDRAY, with little enemy activity in the regimental sectors during the night. At 1200A hours, 142 RCT reported SA contact at V-246465. At 1400A hours, 142 RCT reported Companies B and G held up by enemy positions vic V-247467, with elements of 1st and 2nd Bns moving to incircle enemy positions. At 1900A hours, 141 RCT reported 1st Bn had secured high ground vic V-254523, after small scale attacks during day had reduced enemy pockets in sector. Elements 2nd Bn, 141st Inf, reported vic V-244528, as RCT prepared to attack HERPELMONT at 080600A October. At end of period, 142 RCT and 143 RCT reported patrol contacts to SE from respective sectors.

08 October 1944

At beginning of period, 141 RCT reported SA activity in 1st Bn sector; 142 RCT reported Co A at V-243475; and 143 RCT patrols reported enemy activity vic CHAMPDRAY, with no activity observed in REHAUPAL and PLATICOTE. 141 RCT attacked in sector at 0600A hours, receiving heavy counter-artillery preparation along the entire front. At 0800A hours, 141 RCT reported Co K vic V-259524 overlooking HERPELMONT, and 2nd Bn continued advance against light opposition. At 1000A hours, 141 RCT elements were held up by stiff resistance vic V-254526, enemy tanks reported in HERPELMONT. At the same time, 142 RCT in local attacks in regimental sector, reported MG resistance NE of RUPT. At 1030A hours, Companies K and L moved from edge of woods in attack across open towards HERPELMONT; they were met by heavy infantry, ack-ack, and tank fire, and were forced to withdraw into woods for reorganization. Enemy pressure continued against Companies I and G on the left, as Company F fought off local counterattacks vic V-244526. At 1300A hours, 141 RCT moved Company I to East of Road to join balance 3rd Bn in second attack on HERPELMONT, as Company C, vic V-254508, fought off enemy patrol contact, killing three. At 1500A hours, 3rd Bn, 141st Inf, had entered HERPELMONT, after house-to-house fighting in outskirts of town and elements were moving towards hill objective to N of

~~SECRET~~

~~SECRET~~

08 October 1944 (continued)

town. At the same time, 2nd Bn, 141st Inf, reported no progress. At 1600A hours, 141st Inf reported 3rd Bn on objective V-261529 and 2nd Bn advancing after breaking enemy resistance in woods to W of town; 142 RCT in local attack in sector advanced Co A to vic V-244471, as Companies E and F secured positions at V-246460 against stiff resistance. At 1900A hours, 142 RCT reported 2nd Bn making some progress vic V-246464; as 141 RCT reported 1st Bn vic V-268527, V-264519, V-258514, and roadblock at V-265512. At end of period, RCTs held up for night secured positions; 143 RCT reported train movement on tracks towards BRUYERES.

09 October 1944

At beginning of period, 141 RCT reported following positions: 1st Bn V-264518 and V-263520, 2nd Bn V-254530 and V-255528, 3rd Bn V-2653, V-266525, with Co I in HERPELMONT; 142 RCT reported 1st Bn located vic V-245473 and V-238467, 2nd Bn V-245464 and V-247464; 143 RCT with right flank at roadblock V-249476 extended to V-256484, V-259487, V-260497, V-256512, and V-247486, 3rd Bn in reserve at LAVELINE. At 0800A hours, 141 RCT reported roadblock established on HERPELMONT - JUSSARUPT road, as 2nd Bn continued mopping up in woods sector to W of town. At 1100A hours, 142 RCT reported SA contact 200 yards in front of 1st Bn. At 1200A hours, Co A, 142nd Inf, was reported on objective V-247472, after SA fight in sector; and 141 RCT with Co G vic V-235525 reported balance 2nd Bn in enemy contact in woods vic V-236535. During balance of period, 143 RCT remained in position; 142 RCT further improved positions in line between RUPT and Hill 827 (V-240458), and roadblock vic LE CREUX, by reduction of small enemy detachments in sector; and 141 RCT continued local advances in HERPELMONT sector and woods vic V-253532 and V-236537.

10 October 1944

During night 9-10 October, 141 and 142 RCTs reported sectors quiet, 143 RCT reported enemy activity in outskirts of REHAUPAL. At 0800A hours, 141 RCT started infiltration of 2nd Bn into woods vic V-236537, following patrols of previous night. At 1000A hours, Co G, 141st Inf, was reported vic V-237533, encountering SA and mine field delaying action. At 1100A hours, Co G was reported at V-238534 with Co F vic V-235536, advancing against scattered SA resistance. No change in other RCTs during period. At 1700A hours, 141 RCT reported woods objective clear, 70-80 PWs taken. 142 RCT completed intra-regimental reliefs at 1800A hours. Co I relieving Companies A and C, and Co K taking positions of Co G and At Co roadblock. At end of period, 141 RCT reported woods V-229539 cleared without opposition, outposted by Co H, 36th Engr (C) Regiment (Attached 753rd Tk Bn(M)). 2nd Bn, 141 RCT, moved to assembly area vic LEPANGES.

11 October 1944

Night 10-11 October all sectors reported quiet, with some patrol activity in 143 RCT sector. At 1200A hours, 141 RCT reported Co B on high ground vic V-272525; and 753rd Tk Bn (M) moved tanks and OPs to W edge of woods vic V-228539, reported enemy infiltration into woods from N. At 1400A hours, 142 RCT (minus one Bn)

~~SECRET~~

~~SECRET~~

11 October 1944 (continued)

closed assembly area vic CHARMOIS, attached 36th Inf Div for operations. 142 RCT relieved Companies B, E and F, with Co L in defensive position. At 1500A hours, 143 RCT completed intra-regimental relief of 1st Bn by 3rd Bn. Activity throughout the period consisted of consolidation of defensive positions in Div sector and mop-up of infiltrating elements from woods vic V-2354.

12 October 1944

Scattered arty fire received in Div forward areas during night 11-12 October. Enemy infiltration into woods vic V-2354 threatened extended outpost of Co H, 36th Engr (C) Regt, and 753rd Tk Bn (M) OPs during early part of period. At 1230A hours, 141 RCT reported strong enemy detachments holding out in wooded sector V-2354 with 753rd Tk Bn (M) forces, plus Co H, 36th Engr (C) Regt, holding only southwestern tip. At 1600A hours, outposts were withdrawn from woods in face of continued enemy infantry pressure and arty fire. No change during latter part of period.

13 October 1944

141 RCT patrols night of 12-13 October reported BEAUMENIL clear, and JUSSARUPT occupied by enemy in strength. 142 RCT patrols took 7 PWs during night. During early part of period, RCTs further consolidated positions and prepared for local inter-regimental reliefs. At 1000A hours, 753rd Tk Bn (M) reported Co I, 36th Engr C Regt (attached 753rd Tk Bn (M)) had advanced 400 yards into the woods vic V-228539 against scattered SA fire. At 1500A hours, 142 RCT, effecting relief of elements of 143 RCT, reported 1st and 2nd Bns on move to relieve 143 RCT (minus Co L) and Co L, 143rd Inf, plus Co C, 141st Inf. At 1630A hours, 141 RCT reported occupation of BEAUMENIL by Co I. At the same time, 1st Bn, 143rd Inf, reported closing CHENIMENIL for night. At the end of period, 142 RCT had completed relief of elements 143 RCT in the LAVELINE - LES ROUGE CHATEAU area.

14 October 1944

143 RCT, assembling preparatory to regimental attack at 150800 October, reported 2nd Bn closed assembly area vic FAUCOMPIERE, 3rd Bn closed XAMONTARUPT. At 0600A hours, 3rd Bn, 142nd Inf, reported closing vic CHARMOIS. 142 RCT, moving to assembly area preparatory to attack in conjunction with 143 RCT, reported first elements moving forward assembly area at 1415A hours. At 1600A hours, 143 RCT reported 1st Bn enroute DEYCIMONT, 3rd Bn to follow at 1645A hours, and 2nd Bn Liv reserve vic FAUCOMPIERRE. 142 RCT closed assembly area vic V-172576, V-205570, and V-196577 at 1830A hours. During remainder of period, elements of Div held defensive line along HERPELMONT - RUPT line and prepared with two RCTs for attack towards BRUYERES.

~~SECRET~~

~~SECRET~~

15 October 1944

At beginning of period, 142 RCT reported no activity except contact with 179th Inf on left; 141 RCT reported 2nd Bn closed vic PREY, with 1st Bn in light enemy contact vic V-268521; 142 RCT and 143 RCT reported only light arty in sector. At 0800A hours, 143 and 142 RCTs, from respective LDs, launched attack toward BRUYERES, as elements 141 RCT pushed off in limited attack towards FIMENIL. At 0900A hours, 143 RCT reported 1st Bn elements vic V-221559, 3rd Bn elements advancing vic V-217-551 without contact; 141 RCT reported 2nd Bn advancing against slight opposition vic V-231542, V-223543, Co K advancing vic V-235543; 142 RCT reported some opposition vic V-228573. At 1200A hours, 142 RCT reported advance against SA and mortar resistance vic V-227588, V-225585, and V-235603; 141 RCT reported general advance along entire sector; 143 RCT reported Co I fighting in edge of LAVAL, with 1st Bn progressing against stiff resistance vic V-231561. At 1500A hours, 142 RCT reported 100th Bn held up along 23 Easting in sector, with 3rd Bn advancing slowly to the right. At 1600A hours, 143 RCT reported elements of Co I in LAVAL, encountering moderate resistance, as Co A moved E to cut road leading out of town. Elements 141 RCT approached river line S of LAVAL. At end of period, 143 RCT reported mopping-up of LAVAL; 142 RCT consolidated positions for night after stiff fighting during late afternoon; and 141 RCT reported 2nd Bn closed LEPANGES, 3rd Bn on line V-235549, V-245543, and V-257538.

16 October 1944

At beginning of period, 143 RCT patrols along LAVAL - BRUYERES road encountered enemy patrol S of BRUYERES and patrols to CHAMP LE DUC reported enemy occupied. At 0615A hours, 1st Bn, 141st Inf, attacked road junction at V-273527 against moderate SA resistance. At 1000A hours, 142 RCT reported 100th Bn along 23.4 Easting in sector, with 2nd Bn in fire fight vic V-235574. At 1200A hours, 143 RCT reported elements Co A at V-236557, with one platoon Co I moving towards CHAMP LE DUC; 142 RCT reported Hill 555 (V-236576) completely cleared after previous day's heavy fighting. At 1300A hours, 141 RCT reported 1st Bn forced to pull back to reverse slopes hill vic V-267525, in face of heavy German infantry and SP fire from vic road junction to the E. At the same time, 142 RCT reported Co C in SA fight vic V-235579. At 1415A hours, 143 RCT reported Co I advancing towards CHAMP LE DUC from road junction V-246552. At 1400A hours, 100th Bn attacked Hill "A" (V-2458), 2nd Bn launched attack against Hill "B" (V-245575), both battalions encountering stubborn enemy resistance from dug-in positions. At 1600A hours, 143 RCT reported elements 3rd Bn fighting in S edge of CHAMP LE DUC, as 1st Bn pushed combat elements towards BRUYERES. At 1700A hours, 142 RCT reported elements in heavy fighting at base of Hills "A" and "B", as 143 RCT reported S portion of CHAMP LE DUC cleared in house-to-house fighting. 143 RCT armor started moving up LAVAL - BRUYERES road to assist elements 1st Bn vic V-235565. 141 RCT: 1st Bn renewed attack against road junction E of HERPELMONT, stopped at 26.8 Easting by repeated enemy counterattacks. At 1800A hours, 142 RCT reported strong counterattack, preceded by heavy arty and SP concentration, launched against 2nd Bn positions W of BRUYERES on tip of Hill 555. 2nd Bn held firm against infantry attack from the E and inflicted heavy casualties on the attackers. At end of period, 143 RCT reported southern part of CHAMP LE DUC clear, with 1st Bn in position vic V-234563.

~~SECRET~~

~~SECRET~~

17 October 1944

Enemy arty, light to heavy, fell in all front line sectors during night 16-17 October. At 0730A hours, 442 RCT received second heavy counterattack from direction Hills "A" and "B" against 1st and 2nd Bn positions. Counterattack was repulsed, after two hours of fierce fighting, and heavy casualties were inflicted on the enemy. Relief of the 1st Bn, 141st Inf, was completed by 2nd Bn, 141st Inf, at 0600A hours. The latter prepared to continue attack against original objective. At 1000A hours, 143 RCT reported elements vic V-234568, with elements Co I fighting in main part of CHAMP LE DUC. At the same time, 442 RCT reported second counterattack of morning against hill positions, but at 1025A hours, both Bns jumped off in renewed attack in face of continuous enemy assaults. At 1200A hours, enemy resistance was broken, as elements 2nd and 1st Bns started advance from edge of woods. At 1700A hours, 143 RCT reported CHAMP LE DUC partially occupied, and 442 RCT reported elements on forward slopes of Hills "A" and "B". At 1800A hours, CHAMP LE DUC reported occupied by Co I, and 2nd Bn, 141st Inf, moved into positions for attack against road junction at V-274526. Very little change reported during latter part of period, as forward elements beat off enemy infiltration attempts.

18 October 1944

2nd Bn, 141st Inf, renewed attack to E at 0600A hours, against infantry and arty resistance, as 3rd Bn consolidated river line S of LAVAL - CHAMP LE DUC. At 1115A hours, 442 RCT reported some elements on slopes Hills "A" and "B", engaged in heavy SA fighting; 143 RCT at 1200A hours reported Co A advancing into factory area S of BRUYERES vic V-243565; and 442 RCT reported elements 3rd Bn advancing towards outskirts BRUYERES against infantry and arty fire. At 1300A hours, 141st Inf, 2nd Bn, reinforced by elements 3rd Bn, attacked against vic V-269527 against heavy SA and SP fire. At the same time, Co A, 143rd Inf, was reported just short of railroad at V-243567, but 3rd Bn, 143rd Inf, was stopped in open ground W of CHAMP LE DUC by heavy enemy MG fire. At 1700A hours, 442 RCT reported elements 3rd Bn vic V-245575. At 1635A hours, 442 RCT reported hill taken by 2nd and 3rd Bns, as 100th Bn continued in SA skirmishes on Hill "A". 143 RCT reported 1st Bn pushing further into BRUYERES. At end of period, 442 RCT reported initial objective secured and over 100 PWs taken.

19 October 1944

Patrol activity in Div sector during night. 142 RCT patrol received MG and SA fire from V-248472 and V-249470. 442 RCT patrols, from Co B, made enemy contact directly E from Bn positions. Mop-up of NE slopes hill vic V-245575 continued during early part of period. At 0750A hours, 442 RCT reported following locations: 100th Bn in occupation on hill vic V-2458; 2nd and 3rd Bns on hill vic V-245575. At 0820A hours, 143 RCT reported 1st Bn pushing beyond railroad into BRUYERES, and 3rd Bn on CHAMP LE DUC - BRUYERES road. At 1030A hours, 442 RCT reported both Bns jumping off in attacks on Hills "C" (V-2558) and "D" (V-2557), against SA and arty resistance. At the same time, 141 RCT reported 3rd Bn attack to clear hill to E

~~SECRET~~

~~SECRET~~

19 October 1944 (continued)

595 vic V-237525; and at 1130A hours, enemy resistance in that sector was reported broken and detachments withdrawn to vic V-272523. At 1210A hours, 143 RCT reported BRUYERES clear, as 1st Bn moved through town and contacted 3rd Bn vic factory area to S. 141 RCT reported 2nd Bn vic V-269523, 3rd Bn vic V-271526. At 1230A hours, Hill "D" (V-2557) was cleared by 2nd and 3rd Bns, 442 Inf, as 100th Bn moved on Hill "C" (V-252583). At 1330A hours, 442 RCT reported receiving SP fire in advance toward objective vic V-268574, with rcn elements preparing to push towards BELMONT. At 1415A hours, both Bns were hld up vic V-261572 by heavy enemy fire. At 1545A hours, 141 RCT reported objective clear. At 1900A hours 100th Bn was on Hill "A" with roadblock established N of BRUYERES, with 3rd Bn vic V-265565, 2nd Bn V-264567, strong enemy positions reported E of railroad in sector. At end of period, 1st and 3rd Bns, 143rd Inf, held positions vic BRUYERES and CHAMP LE DUC, and elements 442 RCT were held up E of railroad along line through V-264570.

20 October 1944

At beginning of period, 100th Bn, 442nd Inf, was still receiving SA and MG fire from slopes of Hill "C"; FELBER FORCE (753rd Tk Bn, plus attachments) assembled BRUYERES; 3rd Bn, 141st Inf, closed vic LEPANGES, and 2nd Bn, 143rd Inf, closed in BRUYERES. At 1030A hours, 2nd Bn, 442nd Inf, reported attack of unknown strength vic V-265565 from high ground to the SE, and enemy infiltration attempts were reported on Hill 595. At 1045A hours, strong enemy attacks had developed across 2nd and 3rd Bn fronts in 442 RCT sector, and 100th Bn reported enemy contact on Hill "C". At 1100A hours, 143 RCT reported elements advancing at V-263560. At 1200A hours, 2nd Bn reported moving into woods vic V-262556 and V-264561, as heavy enemy arty concentration was placed on CHAMP LE DUC and BRUYERES. At 1215A hours, 100th Bn reported Co A advancing up slopes of Hill "C" (V-2558) to join balance of Bn in mop-up of sector. At 1400A hours, enemy armor and infantry was reported moving SW vic BELMONT. At 1500A hours, 2nd Bn, 143rd Inf had advanced to vic V-265555 against SA resistance and at 1600A hours, Hill "C" was cleared by 100th Bn. Co B was left to garrison hill, as balance of Bn moved to Hill "D" (V-2557). At 1700A hours, 143 RCT reported elements 2nd Bn vic V-266554 and V-264553, with tanks moving vic Hill 501 (V-267549) to support attack. Hill 501 was secured by Co F, who took 17 PWs. At 2000A hours, 442 RCT reported no progress in 2nd and 3rd Bn sectors, and Bn reserve companies were moved to S and E to envelop enemy position. No change reported during balance of period.

21 October 1944

Little activity reported during early part of period, as units remained in defensive positions. At 0900A hours, Companies F and L, 442nd Inf, launched attack against left flank of enemy position fronting 2nd and 3rd Bns. 143 RCT reported 2nd Bn vic V-267554, moving against scattered SA and light arty. At 1000A hours, Companies F and L, 442nd Inf, had turned flank of enemy position in attack down hill and balance 2nd and 3rd Bns moved across railroad to E as enemy started withdrawing. At 1100A hours, 2nd and 3rd Bns, 442nd Inf, advancing through woods in SA fight, as 100th Bn (-) moved behind elements 143 RCT towards BIFFONTAINE ridge.

~~SECRET~~

SECRET

21 October 1944 (continued)

At 1200A hours, elements 442 RCT had advanced to V-276572 and 100th Bn was reported vic V-264556 moving against no opposition. Shortly thereafter, 442 RCT reported following: 100th Bn on ridge vic V-257575, 2nd Bn (-) across railroad vic V-267570, 3rd Bn (-) working up Hill 505 vic V-268568, Companies F and L vic V-276572 -- all elements 2nd and 3rd Bns steadily advancing against scattered SA fire. At 1300A hours, 143 RCT's 2nd Bn was receiving SA fire vic V-263554 and V-263551. At 1400A hours, 100th Bn was advancing at V-282568 against scattered rifle fire, as 2nd and 3rd Bns advanced vic V-272574 and V-274570. At 1440A hours, Companies F and L, 442 Inf, operating as an enveloping force, had reached V-287573 and had taken 35 PWs. 100th Bn advancing at V-292566. At 1500A hours 2nd Bn, 143rd Inf, attacked to secure objective on BOIS DE BOREMONT. At 1700A hours, 100th Bn, 442nd Inf, had reached V-299578 against SA resistance, and 2nd and 3rd Bns held the line generally V-288579 to V-289571. At end of period, 442 RCT held position generally vic V-290-575 to V-288582. Enemy armor and infantry threat vic BELMONT had been dispersed by fighter-bomber mission.

22 October 1944

During night 21-22 October, 142 RCT patrols reported enemy contact vic V-268514 to V-249473 and vic CHAMPDRAY; 143 RCT patrol observed enemy activity vic V-273548; and armored patrol from FELBER Force (753rd Tk Bn) moved from vic BRUYERES towards BELMONT at 0230A hours. At 0630A hours, 753rd Tk Bn patrol reached S edge of BELMONT, without contact. At 0825A hours, same patrol reported houses clear vic V-275-584, took 10 PWs, with little resistance, and continued towards BELMONT. At 1030A hours, 442 RCT reported Co E fighting along ridge in sector, with little information on 3rd Bn vic V-387573 and V-385576. At 1100A hours, 143 RCT's 2nd Bn was advancing vic V-277558 to V-278562, with tanks moving up towards Hill 501 to support. At 1115A hours, BELMONT was cleared and outposted by elements 753rd Tk Bn. At 1200A hours, 442 RCT reported Co E in heavy fighting vic V-282573 and enemy arty falling on BELMONT and 100th Bn vic V-315587 and V-302572 receiving long range MG and SP fire. During balance of period, elements 442 and 143 RCTs continued intermittent fighting in sector above BIFFONTAINE as elements 141 RCT moved to assembly area vic BELMONT.

23 October 1944

During night 23-24 October, elements 142 RCT continued relief of elements 30th Inf in sector N of LE THOLY; 1st Bn, 141st Inf, closed assembly area N of BRUYERES on BELMONT road, with 3rd Bn enroute same area. At 0530A hours, relief 30th Inf completed, responsibility of sector passed to 142 RCT, as of 0735A hours. Preparations for 141 RCT attack from LD vic V-3059 toward objective vic V-3558, included patrol from 442 RCT reconnoitering route 1 Km beyond LD with French guide. 1st Bn, 141st Inf, moved from assembly area vic V-2857 at 1200A hours, on trail over BELMONT ridge, and passed through elements 442 RCT -- attacked towards objective, vic V-3657. At 1600A hours, 1st Bn passed through positions 442 RCT and

SECRET

~~SECRET~~

23 October 1944 (continued)

established contact with enemy at V-320585, where positions were consolidated for the night. 142 RCT held defensive positions throughout the period, as 143 RCT, with 1st and 2nd Bns in reserve assembly positions vic FAUCOMPIERRE and LEPANGES, continued clearing of BOIS DE BORMONT with 2nd Bn during afternoon and relieved elements of 442 RCT to E Easting. 100th Bn, 442nd Inf, moving E and S above BIFFONTAINE, reported town clear at 1710A hours after intermittent SA fight. Town occupied by Companies A and C during night.

24 October 1944

141 RCT continued attack to the SE at 0600A hours. By 1200A hours 1st Bn had reached V-334582 and V-334585 against SA opposition, as 3rd Bn moved from assembly area (V-2658) to W of 1st Bn. At 1200A hours, Co I reported in SA fight at V-316-599. 2nd Bn, 143rd Inf, relieved elements 442 RCT in BIFFONTAINE and at 1700A hours held positions along S edge of woods from V-2655 to V-314574. During afternoon 24 October, Co A, 141st Inf, held positions vic V-3359 and balance Bn, advanced E from V-334586 against stubborn resistance. Strong enemy counterattack, supported by heavy arty fire, vic V-322586 during late afternoon cut supply lines to 1st Bn, 141st Inf; and 2nd Bn, advancing from reserve position to open supply route, became heavily engaged at V-323586. During latter part of period, elements 3rd Bn, 141st Inf, fought off heavy counterattack vic V-325596 without loss of ground.

25 October 1944

During period little activity in Div sector, except in 141 RCT, where heavy fighting continued throughout period. At 0910A hours, elements 3rd Bn, 141st Inf, reported vic V-331597, with Co I still in contact in positions of previous night. Enemy counterattack of previous night against 1st Bn, 141st Inf, overran Bn CP and cut all supply lines; 2nd Bn, 141st Inf, moving to establish contact with 1st Bn vic V-345573, had reached V-330588 at 1000A hours. 2nd and 3rd Bns, 141st Inf, at 1600A hours, launched attack against enemy defensive line across sector V-322580 - V-322590 - V-3360, and established immediate contact in heavy SA and mortar duel. At 1800A hours, Co G, 141st Inf, had worked S and E to vic V-322582, and was held up by strong enemy opposition. Only contact with 1st Bn, 141st Inf, vic V-3557, was by Arty FO radio. At end of period, little progress had been made, and 1st Bn patrol working back towards 2nd Bn encountered enemy roadblock vic V-338579, and suffered heavy casualties in the fight that ensued.

26 October 1944

No change reported in 1st Bn, 141st Inf, little contact with enemy occurring during night. 2nd and 3rd Bns were in contact with enemy throughout the night. 143 RCT continued strong patrols towards JUSSARUPT. 2nd and 3rd Bns, 141st Inf, plus 2nd Bn, 442nd Inf, moved from assembly area during night, continued attack 0730A

~~SECRET~~

~~SECRET~~

26 October 1944 (continued)

hours. At 0830A hours, 2nd and 3rd Bns, 141st Inf, supported by light and medium tanks, were heavily engaged; tanks having much difficulty maneuvering in heavily wooded terrain. At 1200A hours, 3rd Bn, 141st Inf, elements vic V-324591 received counterattack on left flank; 2nd Bn reported slight progress; and 2nd Bn, 442nd Inf, in contact since morning attack advanced vic V-324594 and V-322600. During balance of period, enemy resistance was heavy in 141 RCT sector and preparations were made for balance of 442 RCT to pass through positions 141 RCT and continue attack to release isolated Bn. Arrangements were made for air drop of supplies to 1st Bn, 141st Inf, for morning 27 October.

27 October 1944

At 0915A hours, 1st and 3rd Bns, 442nd Inf, were closing in assembly areas preparatory to attack in 141 RCT sector. Message from 1st Bn, 141st Inf, indicated that patrols from that unit ran into strong enemy roadblock vic V-333579, and only 5 men returned to Bn after ambush and fire fight. 2nd Bn, 143rd Inf, started run before attack at 1140A hours to clear slopes of Hill vic V-313575. At 1500A hours, 3rd Bn, 442nd Inf, was in contact vic V-333586 - V-333582. At 1600A hours, 3rd Bn, 141st Inf, was forced to make limited withdrawal in face of heavy enemy counter-attack supported by tanks. At 1700A hours, 3rd Bn, 442nd Inf, attacked by enemy infantry and tanks vic V-333586 and V-333583, knocked out enemy tank and half-track with bazooka fire. This Bn repulsed three heavy counterattacks within the hour, without loss of ground. At the same time, 143 RCT reported Co F on objective vic V-319578, encountering enemy arty and moderate SA fire. At 1800A hours, 143 RCT reported enemy infiltration up draw from BIFFONTAINE between elements 2nd Bn, 143rd Inf, and 2nd Bn 142nd Inf. At end of period, all units were holding in position with no offensive activities reported.

28 October 1944

At 0630A hours, 442 RCT attacked to E and SE to close gap and establish contact with 1st Bn, 141st Inf; and 2nd Bn, 141st Inf, attacked SE at same time. Little progress was made throughout morning, as enemy infantry in positions along ridge fought to block attempts to relieve 1st Bn, 141st Inf. At 1600A hours, 143 RCT reported elements 2nd Bn held up vic V-313578 - V-316575 by enemy MG fire from vic V-319577; and 141 RCT reported Co F's attack against hill vic V-316576 moving against SA resistance. At 2000A hours, message from 1st Bn, 141st Inf, requested medical supplies. During remainder of period, 442 RCT, elements 141 RCT, and elements 143 RCT, continued heavy fighting in respective sectors.

29 October 1944

At beginning of period, reports by radio received from 1st Bn, 141st Inf, indicated need for radio batteries. 143 RCT moved Co E to vic V-312575 to reinforce attacks of Co F. At 0900A hours, 141 RCT's 3rd Bn was advancing vic V-339590, encountering light SA opposition, and at 1000A hours was vic V-331586, in contact with 3rd Bn, 442nd Inf, which was attacking toward ridge at V-348590. At 1115A

~~SECRET~~

~~SECRET~~

29 October 1944 (continued)

hours, message from 1st Bn, 141st Inf, reported air drop of supplies and medical kits successful. At 1300A hours, 3rd Bn, 442nd Inf, had reached V-334584, as 100th Bn vic V-3358 and V-332582 advanced slowly against stiff resistance. At the same time, message from 1st Bn, 141st Inf, stated they had sufficient supplies received by air drop but needed radio batteries. At 1600A hours, elements 143 RCT reported Hill E of BIFFONTAINE about clear, and 442 RCT's 2nd Bn was sweeping Hill 617 after breaking resistance in sector. 141 RCT reported 3rd Bn vic V-335592, moving against light opposition, but 2nd Bn was making little progress. At 1800A hours, 442 RCT (100th and 3rd Bns, right to left) hit extremely heavy resistance at trail junction vic V-333587. All units held up during darkness in latter part of period. 442 RCT reported 60PWs taken and 125-150 enemy killed in day's action vic V-330603.

30 October 1944

1st Bn, 141st Inf, reported (by radio) a strength of 311 men on position, with sufficient supplies for three days and a strong enemy road block V-338578. At 0900A hours, 100th and 3rd Bns, 442nd Inf, launched attack toward enemy road block; and message received from 1st Bn, 141st Inf, indicated they would attack from their positions only on order for fear of splitting forces. At 1200A hours, Bns of 442 RCT had reached V-333583; 143 RCT reported Co "E" cleared hill at V-317579 and Plat of Co "F" advancing into LAVELINE against stiff resistance. At the same time, message from 1st Bn, 141st Inf, reported 22 litter casualties, battle efficiency low, and enemy patrols active on front and flanks. At 1300A hours, elements 141 and 442 RCT reported advances in sectors and 143 RCT reported combat patrol in fire fight in LAVELINE. At 1500A hours, 143 RCT reported LES POULIERES and most of LAVELINE clear of resistance. At 1600A hours, following message received from 1st Bn, 141st Inf: "Patrols from 442 RCT here.", and at 1630A hours, FO with 442 RCT reported two companies of that RCT in 1st Bn, 141st Inf, sector. Report further confirmed by 141 RCT at 1650A hours. Evacuation of 1st Bn, 141 RCT, casualties continued during remainder of period, as elements 442 RCT consolidated positions around sector. Balance of 1st Bn, 141st Inf, prepared to withdraw to vic BELMONT at first light.

31 October 1944

At beginning of period, 100th and 3rd Bns, 442nd Inf, were in position around V-3557, with no enemy activity reported. 1st Bn, 141st Inf, was withdrawing from vic. 143 RCT reported outposts in LES POULIERES and LAVELINE. At 0900A hours, 143 RCT started final push to clear hill mass E and W of BIFFONTAINE of enemy detachments that held out along lower slopes. At 1200A hours, 442 RCT reported advance at V-349573. At 1500A hours, 1st Bn, 141st Inf, closed assembly area vic DEYCIMONT. At 1530A hours, 3rd Bn, 141st Inf, was in contact at V-338590 - V-339-583, with 2nd Bn in fire fight vic V-336597. At 1600A hours, Co F, 143rd Inf, was held up by enemy strong points vic V-318578. At 1825A hours, 142 RCT reported local engagement vic V-253426, in which two houses changed hands three times in course of a fierce fire fight before 142 RCT secured the area. At end of period, 442 RCT reported 3rd Bn on objective vic V-355565, with 100th Bn holding high ground vic V-342572 and V-343570.

~~SECRET~~