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

OPERATIONS IN FRANCE
OCTOBER 1944

NARRATIVE

CLASSIFICATION CHANGED TO:
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BY AUTHORITY OF THE ASSISTANT GENERAL
S. D. McArdle
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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 1944.

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

CLASSIFICATION CHANGED TO:
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BY AUTHORITY OF THE
ADJUTANT GENERAL

DOWNGRADING COMMITTEE 18 MARCH 1976

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* Items flagged by asterisk are being forwarded in original only.
At beginning of period, 141 RCT had elements vic V-207517, V-211510, 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 0600A 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-225514 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 726 and encountered enemy arty and MG fire enroute to Hill 763 (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 CP overlooking HOUX, but Co "C" was forced to withdraw to vic PREY after running into SA, SE, and mortar fire in attack on Hill 639; 142 RCT held line V-2345 to V-228457 and point vic V-223461, but roadblock sector vic LE CREUX (V-23145) was not completely clear; 143 RCT (minus 2nd Bn in assembly area vic V-203431) occupied positions vic V-22148, V-225437, and V-234438, with patrols toward LAVELINE.

02 October 1944

141 RCT (minus 3rd Bn) resumed attack against Hill 639 at 0630A hours against moderate resistance; 142 RCT continued pressure against stubborn enemy resistance around LE CREUX; and 143 RCT moved elements towards Hill 763 (V-2451) and town of LAVELINE DU HOUS, against scattered enemy resistance. By 1200A hours, 141 RCT had reduced enemy resistance vic V-216516, 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.
02 October 1944 (continued)

1143 RCT continued advance, occupying LAVELINE and sector via V-2150, V-2149, V-2348, and roadblock via V-3443. Little change was reported in positions at close of period, but artillery fire continued throughout the sector.

03 October 1944

At beginning of period, 1411 RCT had seized Hill 609, pushed to the NE to via V-235510 and V-231531, as daylight attack was launched against stubborn resistance. 3rd Bn (attached 1412 RCT) held position on northern slopes Hill 827 throughout the period. 1412 RCT: 1st and 2nd Bns Div reserve via V-2117 and V-1947, as 3rd Bn held positions via V-221461 and maintained roadblock at V-223453. 1413 RCT: 1st Bn continued advance against MG and mortar fire, and at 0910A hours had reached objective V-21451 and established roadblock at V-234503, as 3rd Bn advanced to position via V-214494 and V-214141. By 1200A hours, 1411 RCT armored elements from vic PREY had advanced to vic V-21451, and 1st Bn was in contact with the enemy vic V-235508. 1412 RCT prepared to attack due N from Hill 827 (V-237469) with one company of the 3rd Bn, 1412nd Inf, to take over sector of 3rd Bn, 1411 RCT, after jump off. 1413 RCT had 1st Bn advancing via V-244507 and V-242503, as 3rd Bn via V-214149 encountered MG and mortar resistance. During latter part of period, 1st Bn, 1411st Inf, had advanced to vic V-214651 and continued mapping-up in sector along HOUX-HERPELMONT road; 2nd Bn moved to high ground. V-234577 against SP and arty fire, as combat patrols were pushed to vic V-255535, without contact. Co F, 1412nd Inf (reinf), relieved 3rd Bn, 1412nd Inf, position at 2330A hours, 3rd Bn assembling via V-214179. (1st Bn, 1411st Inf (attached 1412 RCT) continued close-in contact with enemy in sector. 1413 RCT: 1st Bn advanced to position V-244502 overlooking LES ROUGE CHATEAU, and fought small scale engagements against enemy positions via V-244502.

04 October 1944

At beginning of period, 1411 RCT reported 1st Bn sector quiet after SA patrol clash at 0100A hours, and 2nd Bn made patrol contact with enemy at V-243528; 1412 RCT reported relief of 3rd Bn by Co F at 0015A hours. At 0600A hours, 3rd Bn, 1411 Inf (attached to 1412 RCT) was preparing to assault objective via V-235472 to V-237473, and 1413 RCT patrols reported enemy vehicular movement in LES ROUGE CHATEAU. At 0800A hours, 1411 RCT reported following locations: 1st Bn via V-245515, 2nd Bn via V-247524; 1413 RCT reported 1st Bn via V-246505, V-243999, facing LES ROUGE CHATEAU. At 1000A hours, 1413 RCT was moving on LES ROUGE CHATEAU, as 1411 RCT pushed elements 2nd Bn to vic V-251528 without contact. At 1300A hours, 1411 RCT reported 1st Bn via V-236472, receiving SA and arty opposition, with enemy in occupation of high ground via V-243473. 1413 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 via V-214139. At 1300A hours, 1411 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 0000A hours. Patrols to SE as far as V-251511 reported no contact. At the same time, 1413 RCT reported clearing up of valley via E of LES ROUGE CHATEAU, reducing enemy resistance by platoon attack supported by arty and heavy weapons fire. 1412 RCT, in occupation of Hill
04 October 19--

827 during night and morning, pushed elements of Co F to vic V-233,456, as elements 3rd Bn, 11lst Inf, advanced toward RUP, against sniper and MG fire. At 1600A hours, 111 RCT reported elements 3rd Bn on objective V-239,975 to V-230,571, organizing positions for night; and 113 RCT reported 2nd Bn vic V-244,09 and V-244,86, with 1st Bn vic V-243,050. At the same time, 111 RCT reported attack by estimated 100 enemy against positions of Co E and F. At 1800A hours: 1st Bn, 11lst Inf, was reported on objective V-265,2 in SA fight, as 2nd Bn fought off strong enemy attack from vic V-247,730. At 1900A hours 113 RCT reported 1st Bn on Hill 762 (V-253,050) with 2nd Bn vic V-248,499, V-244,86, and roadblock at V-242,33. LES ROUGES CHATEAU clear. At end of period, 111 RCT reported attack against 2nd Bn repulsed without loss of ground -- 17 PWS taken.

05 October 19--

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 111 RCT started forward from vic V-237,508. 112 RCT reported attack by 3rd Bn of 111 RCT was making little progress, as 2nd Bn, 112 RCT, moved up to assist in attack. Roadblock maintained vic LE CHEUX, but 400 yards abatis of felled trees beyond block was covered by enemy small arms fire from the SE. At 0900A hours, 113 RCT reported 2nd Bn in SA contact vic V-244,159. At 1200A hours, 111 RCT reported 1st Bn positions organized vic HERPELMONT, but enemy infiltrations threatened supply lines from vic V-254,520. 2nd Bn reported in heavy fire fight, as elements 60 E were pinned down vic V-253,028. 113 RCT reported 2nd Bn positions vic V-244,51 and 1st Bn vic V-243,499, and around slopes Hill 762, 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, 11lst Inf, vic V-258,519 and V-262,513, was threatened by strong enemy forces working between positions and roadblock vic V-252,518, 2nd Bn reported hill well secured vic V-252,527 to V-243,521. At 1500A hours, 113 RCT reported 1st Bn mapping vic Hill 763, 2nd Bn in position overlooking RHUAPAL from vic V-244,981 and V-21,332, with 3rd Bn advancing towards Hill 808 from vic V-253,914 against light opposition. At the same time, 112 RCT reported 3rd Bn, 11lst Inf, and 2nd Bn 112 Inf, heavily engaged against enemy dug-in positions in north tip of Hill 827. At 1700A hours, 112 RCT attack reported progressing satisfactorily, and 113 RCT reported 2nd Bn on objective vic V-249,714 and 3rd Bn forward elements vic V-251,914. At 2100A hours, 112 RCT reported 1st Bn relieving 3rd Bn, 11lst Inf, in position. Elements 2nd Bn, 112nd Inf, advanced to position overlooking RUT and RHUAPAL road, organized position for night vic V-242,66. Co F moving to vic V-240,57 to protect right flank. At 2100A hours, 113 RCT reported position in sector secure.

06 October 19--

At 0100A hours, 1st Bn, 112nd Inf, completed relief of 3rd Bn, 11lst Inf, on Hill 827. 3rd Bn, 11lst Inf, closed LE BULLAY at 0500A hours. At 0900A hours, 3rd Bn, 113rd Inf, from positions vic V-254,96 to V-252,98, prepared to attack Hill 808.

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06 October 1944 (continued)

At 1200A hours, elements 1/2nd Inf were engaged in mopping-up slopes of Hill 827, against scattered enemy detachments; and 3rd Bn, 1/3rd Inf, reported on objective via V-252,990 and V-255,422. 753rd Tk Bn (M), with attachments, continued to protect left flank of the Div via RY8, and maintained contact with 179th Inf to the NE. At 1600A hours, 3rd Bn, 1/3rd Inf, reported objective secure and positions organized, and 1st Bn, 1/3rd Inf, established contact with elements 1/2nd Inf via V-242,424. 1/2nd Inf pushed strong patrols into the woods via V-239,468 and towards Rupt. 1/1 RCT reported 1st Bn elements via V-251,510 to V-255,28, as 2nd Bn encountered SA and mortar fire via V-243,527. At 1800A hours, 1/2 RCT reported Rupt clear and patrols were pushing to E and SE. At end of period, 1/11 RCT held positions astride ST JEAN DU MARCHE - HERPELLENT road, via V-251,520 - V-251,527 - V-253,528, with roadblock via V-250,514, enemy contact reported in sector towards HERPELLENT; 1/3 RCT held positions on Hill 753, via V-252,405, and Hill 806 (V-257,487), and maintained contact on LAVELLIN-REHAUPAL road with 1/12 RCT, who held positions extending through Rupt and around southwestern and southern slopes of Hill 827, including roadblock via LE CREUX.

07 October 1944

At beginning of period, 1/3 RCT patrols reported enemy in REHAUPAL and CHAMPDRAY, with little enemy activity in the regimental sectors during the night. At 1200A hours, 1/2 RCT reported SA contact at V-247,465. At 1400A hours, 1/2 RCT reported Companies B and G held up by enemy positions via V-247,467, with elements of 1st and 2nd Bns moving to encircle enemy positions. At 1900A hours, 1/1 RCT reported 1st Bn had secured high ground via V-250,523, after small scale attacks during day had reduced enemy pockets in sector. Elements 2nd Bn, 1/11st Inf, reported via V-240,506, as RCT prepared to attack HERPELLENT at 0800A October. At end of period, 1/12 RCT and 1/3 RCT reported patrol contact to SE from respective sectors.

08 October 1944

At beginning of period, 1/11 RCT reported SA activity in 1st Bn sector; 1/4 RCT reported Co A at V-244,475; and 1/3 RCT patrols reported enemy activity via CHAMPDRAY, with no activity observed in REHAUPAL and FLATICOTE. 1/1 RCT attacked in sector at 0600A hours, receiving heavy counter-artillery preparation along the entire front. At 0800A hours, 1/11 RCT reported Co K via V-250,524, overlooking HERPELLENT, and 2nd Bn continued advance against light opposition. At 1000A hours, 1/11 RCT elements were held up by stiff resistance via V-251,526, enemy tanks reported in HERPELLENT. At the same time, 1/12 RCT in local attacks in regimental sector, reported KG resistance NE of Rupt. At 1030A hours, Companies K and L moved from edge of woods in attack across open towards HERPELLENT; 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 via V-247,456. At 1300A hours, 1/11 RCT moved Company I to East of R uptown to join balance 3rd Bn in second attack on HERPELLENT, as Company C, via V-250,506, fought off enemy patrol contact, killing three. At 1500A hours, 3rd Bn, 1/11st Inf, had entered HERPELLENT, after house-to-house fighting in outskirts of town and elements were moving towards hill objective to N of
town. At the same time, 2nd Bn, 114th Inf, reported no progress. At 1600A hours, 114th Inf reported 3rd Bn on objective V-261529 and 2nd Bn advancing after breaking enemy resistance in woods to W of town; 112 RCT in local attack in sector advanced Co A to vic V-248471, as Companies E and F secured positions at V-248460 against stiff resistance. At 1900A hours, 112 RCT reported 2nd Bn making some progress vic V-248464; as 114 RCT reported 1st Bn vic V-266527, V-264519, V-258514, and roadblock at V-265512. At end of period, RCT's held up for night secured positions; 113 RCT reported train movement on tracks towards BRUERES.

09 October 1944

At beginning of period, 111 RCT reported following positions: 1st Bn V-264518 and V-263520, 2nd Bn V-254530 and V-255526, 3rd Bn V-2553, V-266525, with Co I in HERPELMONT; 112 RCT reported 1st Bn located vic V-245453 and V-238467, 2nd Bn V-244514 and V-247464; 113 RCT with right flank at roadblock V-245476 extended to V-254581, V-259587, V-260197, V-256512, and V-247486, 3rd Bn in reserve at LAVALINE. At 0600A hours, 111 RCT reported roadblock established on HERPELMONT—JUSSAURUP road, as 2nd Bn continued mopping up in woods sector to W of town. At 1100A hours, 112 RCT reported SA contact 200 yards in front of 1st Bn. At 1200A hours, Co A, 112nd Inf, was reported on objective V-247462, after SA fight in sector; and 111 RCT with Co G vic V-235525 reported balance 2nd Bn in enemy contact in woods vic V-256535. During balance of period, 113 RCT remained in position; 112 RCT further improved positions in line between RUPT and Hill 827 (V-241456), and roadblock vic LE CRANUX, by reduction of small enemy detachments in sector; and 111 RCT continued local advances in HERPELMONT sector and woods vic V-253532 and V-236537.

10 October 1944

During night 9-10 October, 111 and 112 RCTs reported sectors quiet, 113 RCT reported enemy activity in outskirts of RENAIPEL. At 0800A hours, 111 RCT started infiltration of 2nd Bn into woods vic V-236537, following patrols of previous night. At 1000A hours, Co G, 111st Inf, was reported vic V-237533, encountering SA and mine field delaying action. At 1100A hours, Co F was reported at V-238534 with Co G vic V-235536, advancing against scattered SA resistance. No change in other RCTs during period. At 1700A hours, 111 RCT reported woods objective clear, 70-80 FWs taken. 112 RCT completed intra-regimental relief 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, 111 RCT reported woods V-229539 cleared without opposition, outposted by Co H, 36th Engr (C) Regiment (Attached 753rd Tk En(M)). 2nd Bn, 112 RCT, moved to assembly area vic LEPANGES.

11 October 1944

Night 10-11 October all sectors reported quiet, with some patrol activity in 113 RCT sector. At 1200A hours, 111 RCT reported Co B on high ground vic V-27525; and 753rd Tk En(M) moved tanks and OPs to W edge of woods vic V-228539, reported enemy infiltration into woods from N. At 1400A hours, 112 RCT (minus one Bn)
11 October 1944 (continued)

Closed assembly area via CHARNOIS, attached 36th Inf Div for operations. 1/2 RCT relieved Companies B, E and F, with Co L in defensive position. At 1500A hours, 1/3 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 via V-2354.

12 October 1944

Scattered arty fire received in Div forward areas during night 11-12 October. Enemy infiltration into woods via 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, 1/3 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

1/3 RCT patrols night of 12-13 October reported BEAUMENIL clear, and JUSSARJUPUT occupied by enemy in strength. 1/2 RCT patrols took 7 FWs 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 via V-223532 against scattered SA fire. At 1500A hours, 1/2 RCT, effecting relief of elements of 1/3 RCT, reported 1st and 2nd Bns on move to relieve 1/3 RCT (minus Co L) and Co L, 1/3rd Inf, plus Co C, 1/1st Inf. At 1630A hours, 1/3 RCT reported occupation of BEAUMENIL by Co I. At the same time, 1st Bn, 1/3rd Inf, reported closing CHENINENIL for night. At the end of period, 1/2 RCT had completed relief of elements 1/3 RCT in the LAVELINE - LES ROUGE CHATEAU area.

14 October 1944

1/3 RCT, assembling preparatory to regimental attack at 1500A 16 October, reported 2nd Bn closed assembly area via FAUCOMPIERE, 3rd Bn closed XAMONTARJUPT. At 0600A hours, 3rd Bn, 1/3rd Inf, reported closing via CHARNOIS. 1/2 RCT, moving to assembly area preparatory to attack in conjunction with 1/3 RCT, reported first elements moving forward assembly area at 1415A hours. At 1600A hours, 1/3 RCT reported 1st Bn emroute DEYCGIMONT, 3rd Bn to follow at 1415A hours, and 2nd Bn in reserve via FAUCOMPIERE. 1/2 RCT closed assembly area via V-172576, V-205576, and V-196777 at 1600A hours. During remainder of period, elements of Div held defensive line along HERPHELIMENT - RUPT line and prepared with two RCTs for attack towards BRUYERES.
At beginning of period, 1/2 RCT reported no activity except contact with 179th Inf on left; 1/1 RCT reported 2nd Bn closed OUt PFEY, with 1st Bn in light enemy contact via V-268521; 1/2 RCT and 1/3 RCT reported only light arty in sector. At 0600A hours, 1/3 and 1/4 RCTs, from respective LUs, launched attack toward Bruyeres, as elements 1/1 RCT pushed off in limited attack toward TINTEIL. At 0900A hours, 1/3 RCT reported 1st Bn elements via V-221529, 3rd Bn elements advancing via V-211-551 without contact; 1/1 RCT reported 2nd Bn advancing against slight opposition via V-231520, 225540, 235540, 225543; 1/2 RCT reported some opposition via V-225573. At 1200A hours, 1/2 RCT reported advance against SA and mortar resistance via V-227588, V-225563, and V-235603; 1/1 RCT reported general advance along entire sector; 1/3 RCT reported Co I fighting in edge of LiVAl, with 1st Bn progressing against stiff resistance via V-231561. At 1500A hours, 1/2 RCT reported 100th Bn hold up along 23 Estabing in sector, with 3rd Bn advancing slowly to the right. At 1600A hours, 1/3 RCT reported elements of Co I in LiVAl, encountering moderate resistance, as Co I moved to cut road leading out of town. Elements 1/1 RCT approached river line S of LiVAl. At end of period, 1/2 RCT reported mopping-up of LiVAl, 1/2 RCT consolidated positions for night after stiff fighting. During late afternoon; and 1/1 RCT reported 2nd Bn closed LEPAGES, 3rd Bn on line V-235549, V-235543, and V-235538.

16 October 1944

At beginning of period, 1/3 RCT patrols along LiVAl - Bruyeres road encountered enemy patrol S of Bruyeres and patrols to Champ le Duc reported enemy occupied. At 0615A hours, 1st Bn, 1/41st Inf, attacked road junction at V-273527 against moderate SA resistance. At 1000A hours, 1/2 RCT reported 100th Bn along 23.4 Estabing in sector, with 2nd Bn in fire fight via V-235574. At 1200A hours, 1/3 RCT reported elements of Co A at V-236557, with one platoon of Co I moving towards Champ le Duc; 1/2 RCT reported Hill 555 (V-236576) completely cleared after previous day's heavy fighting. At 1300A hours, 1/1 RCT reported 1st Bn forced to pull back to reverse slopes hill via V-227559, in face of heavy German infantry and SP fire from via road junction to the B. At the same time, 1/2 RCT reported Co C in SA fight via V-235576. At 11154 hours, 1/3 RCT reported Co I advancing towards Champ le Duc from road junction V-245552. At 1104A hours, 100th Bn attacked Hill "A" (V-24558), 2nd Bn launched attack against Hill "B" (V-245575), both battalions encountering stubborn enemy resistance from dug-in positions. At 1600A hours, 1/3 RCT reported elements 3rd Bn fighting in S edge of Champ le Duc, as 1st Bn pushed combat elements towards Bruyeres. At 1700A hours, 1/2 RCT reported elements in heavy fighting at base of hills "A" and "B", as 1/3 RCT reported S portion of Champ le Duc cleared in house-to-house fighting. 1/3 RCT armor started moving to LiVAl - Bruyeres road to assist elements 1st Bn via V-235569. At 111 RCT: 1st Bn renewed attack against road junction E of Herfelowt, stopped at 28.8 Estabing by repeated enemy counterattacks. At 1800A hours, 1/2 RCT reported strong counterattack, preceded by heavy arty and SP concentration, launched against 2nd Bn positions S of Bruckers 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, 1/3 RCT reported southern part of Champ le Duc clear, with 1st Bn in position via V-234563.
17 October 1944

Enemy arty, light to heavy, fell in all front line sectors during night 16-17 October. At 0700A hours, 443 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 3rd Bn, 141st Inf., at 0600A hours. The latter prepared to continue attack against original objective. At 1000A hours, 443 RCT reported elements of V-234558, 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, 443 RCT reported CHAMP LE DUC partially occupied, and 443 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 junctions at V-274556. 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 DAVAL - CHAMP LE DUC. At 1115A hours, 443 RCT reported some elements on slopes Hills "A" and "B", engaged in heavy SA fighting; 143 RCT at 1300A hours reported Co A advancing into factory area S of BRUYERES vic V-243565; and 443 RCT reported elements 3rd Bn advancing towards outskirts BRUYERES against infantry and arty fire. At 1200A hours, 141st Inf., 2nd Bn, reinforced by elements 3rd Bn, attacked against vic V-229527 against heavy SA and SP fire. At the same time, Co A, 143rd Inf., was reported just short of railroad at V-214567, but 3rd Bn, 143rd Inf., was stopped in open ground N of CHAMP LE DUC by heavy enemy Kg fire. At 1700A hours, 442 RCT reported elements 3rd Bn vic V-243575. At 1825A hours, 443 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 Bns taken.

19 October 1944

Patrol activity in Div sector during night. 142 RCT patrol received Kg and SA fire from V-243472 and V-249470. 443 RCT patrols, from Co E, made enemy contact directly E from Bn positions. Hop-up of NE slopes hill vic V-245575 continued during early part of period. At 0750A hours, 443 RCT reported following locations: 100th Bn in occupation on hill vic V-2458; 2nd and 3rd Bns on hill vic V-245575. At 0620A 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-2555) and "D" (V-2557), against SA and arty resistance. At the same time, 141 RCT reported 3rd Bn attack to clear hill to E.
19 October 1944 (continued)

vic V-287525; 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-266523, 3rd Bn vic V-271526. At 1230A hours, Hill "B" (V-2557) was cleared by 2nd and 3rd Bns. 442 Inf, as 100th Bn moved on Hill "C" (V-252452). At 1330A hours, 442 RCT reported receiving SP fire in advance toward objective vic V-268574, while elements preparing to push towards BELICORTE. At 1415A hours, both Bns were huddled up vic V-261572 by heavy enemy fire. At 1545A hours, 141 RCT reported clear objective area. At 1900A hours 100th En was on Hill "A" with roadblock established N of BRUYERES, with 3rd Bn vic V-265558, 2nd Bn vic 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, 443rd Inf, was still receiving SA and MG fire from slopes of Hill "C"; FELDER FORCE (753rd T/En, plus attachments) assembled BRUYERES; 3rd Bn, 141st Inf, closed vic LE RANGES, and 2nd Bn, 143rd Inf, closed in BRUYERES. At 1030A hours, 2nd Bn, 442nd Inf, reported attack of unknown strength vic V-266565 from high ground to SE, and enemy infiltration attempts were reported on Hill 595. At 1045A hours, strong enemy attacks had developed across 2nd and 3rd Bns fronts in 442 RCT sector, and 100th Bn reported enemy contact on Hill "C". At 1100A hours, 143 RCT reported elements advancing at V-266560. At 1300A hours, 2nd Bn reported moving into woods vic V-268556 and V-264561, as heavy enemy SA concentration was placed on CHAMP LE DUC and BRUYERES. At 1315A 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 were reported moving SW vic BELICORTE. 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 "B" (V-2557). At 1700A hours, 143 RCT reported elements 2nd Bn vic V-265554 and V-264563, with tanks moving vic Hill 501 (V-267549) to support attack. Hill 501 was secured by Co F, who took 17 Pts. At 2000A hours, 442 RCT reported no progress in 2nd and 3rd Bns sectors, and En 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, 443rd Inf, launched attack against left flank of enemy position fronting 2nd and 3rd Bns. 143 RCT reported 2nd Bn vic V-267562, moving against scattered SA and light arty. At 1000A hours, Companies F and L, 443rd 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 BIFFONTAINS ridge.
21 October 1944 (continued)

At 1200A hours, elements 442 RCT had advanced to V-276572 and 100th En was reported
vic V-264556 moving against no opposition. Shortly thereafter, 442 RCT reported
following: 100th En on ridge vic V-257575, 2nd En (-) across railroad vic V-267570,
3rd En (-) working up Hill 505 vic V-256572, Companies F and L vic V-276572 — all
elements 2nd and 3rd Eins steadily advancing against scattered Sa fire. At 1200A
hours, 143 RCT's 2nd En was receiving Sa fire vic V-263554 and V-266551. At 1400A
hours, 100th En was advancing vic V-262588 against scattered rifle fire, as 2nd and
3rd Eins advanced vic V-372574 and V-274570. At 1440A hours, Companies F and L, 442
Inf, operating as an enveloping force, had reached V-267573 and had taken 35 PWs.
100th En advancing at V-262566. At 1500A hours 2nd En, 143rd Inf, attacked to se-
cure objective on 5015 DE BELMONT. At 1700A hours, 100th En, 442nd Inf, had reached
V-239578 against Sa resistance, and 2nd and 3rd Eins held the line generally
V-238579 to V-239571. At end of period, 442 RCT held position generally vic V-290-
575 to V-288573. Enemy armor and infantry threat vic BELMONT had been dispersed by
fighter-bomber mission.

22 October 1944

During night 21-22 October, 143 RCT patrols reported enemy contact vic V-238574
to V-249573 and vic CHAMPAGNE; 143 RCT patrol observed enemy activity vic V-273543;
and armored patrol from FELBER Force (753rd Tk En) moved from vic BRUTHERS towards
BELMONT at 0200A hours. At 0630A hours, 753rd Tk En patrol reached S edge of BEL-
MONT, 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 En vic V-238573 and V-238576. At 1100A hours, 143 RCT's 2nd En was advancing
vic V-277558 to V-276563, with tanks moving up towards Hill 501 to support. At
1115A hours, BELMONT was cleared and outpost by elements 753rd Tk En. At 1200A
hours, 442 RCT reported Co D in heavy fighting vic V-282573 and enemy arty falling
on BELMONT and 100th En vic V-235587 and V-302572 receiving long range HG and SP
fire. During balance of period, elements 429 and 143 RCTs continued intermittent
fighting in sector above DIFFONTAINE 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 En, 141st Inf, closed assembly area N of BRUTHERS
on BELMONT road, with 3rd En enroute same area. At 0630A hours, relief 30th Inf
completed, responsibility of sector passed to 142 RCT, as of 0730A hours. Prepara-
tions for 141 RCT attack from LD vic V-32659 toward objective vic V-3358, included
patrol from 442 RCT reconnoitering route 1 km beyond LD with French guide.
1st En, 141st Inf, moved from assembly area vic V-23577 at 1200A hours, on trail
over BELMONT ridge, and passed through elements 442 RCT — attacked towards objec-
tive, vic V-36579. At 1600A hours, 1st En passed through positions 442 RCT and
23 October 1944 (continued)

established contact with enemy at V-320589, 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 W Easting. 100th Bn, 442nd Inf, moving E and S above BENFONTAINE, 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-2659) to II of 1st Bn. At 1200A hours, Co I reported in SA fight at V-336-599. 2nd Bn, 143rd Inf, relieved elements 442 RCT in BENFONTAINE and at 1700A hours held positions along S edge of woods from V-3265 to V-334574. During afternoon 24 October, Co A, 141st Inf, held positions vic V-3359 and balance Bn, advanced from V-334586 against stubborn resistance. Strong enemy counterattack, supported by heavy artillery fire, vic V-332586 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-335586. 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-322586 – V-322590 – V-3265, and established immediate contact in heavy SA and mortar duel. At 1800A hours, Co C, 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 Artillery radio. At end of period, little progress had been made, and 1st Bn patrol working back towards 2nd Bn encountered enemy roadblock vic V-336578, 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 USSAHUFT. 2nd and 3rd Bns, 143rd Inf, plus 2nd Bn, 442nd Inf, moved from assembly area during night, continued attack 0700A.
26 October 1944 (continued)

hours. At 0300A 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-333586 received counterattack on left flank; 2nd Bn reported slight progress; and 2nd Bn, 442nd Inf, in contact since morning attack advanced vic V-334594 and V-334590. 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 0615A 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 run into strong enemy roadblock vic V-333576, 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-313576. At 1500A hours, 3rd Bn, 442nd Inf, was in contact vic V-333586 – V-333582. At 1600A hours, 2nd Bn, 141st Inf, was forced to make limited withdrawal in face of heavy enemy counterattack supported by tanks. At 1700A hours, 3rd Bn, 442nd Inf, attacked by enemy infantry and tanks vic V-333586 and V-333593, knocked out enemy tank and halted 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-319576, 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 hold up vic V-313576 – V-316576 by enemy MG fire from vic V-319576; and 141 RCT reported Co F’s attack against hill vic V-315576 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-335589, 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-343580. At 1115A
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-329584, as 100th Bn vic V-325588 and V-323582 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 BRUFFOTAINME about clear, and 442 RCT's 2nd Bn was sweeping Hill 617 after breaking resistance in sector. 141 RCT reported 3rd Bn vic V-325582, 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-323597. All units held up during darkness in latter part of period. 442 RCT reported 6CPVs taken and 125-150 enemy killed in day's action vic V-320685.

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-330573. 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-325592; 143 RCT reported Co "B" cleared hill at V-318579 and Flat of Co "F" advancing into LAVALINE 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 LAVALINE. At 1500A hours, 143 RCT reported LES FOULURES and most of LAVALINE clear of resistance. At 1600A hours, following message received from 1st Bn, 141st Inf: "Patrols from 442 RCT here.", and at 1900A 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 HELMONT at first light.

31 October 1944

At beginning of period, 100th and 3rd Bns, 442nd Inf, were in position around V-353579, with no enemy activity reported. 1st Bn, 141st Inf, was withdrawing from vic. 143 RCT reported outposts in LES FOULURES and LAVALINE. At 0900A hours, 143 RCT started final push to clear hill mass E and W of BRUFFOTAINME of enemy detachments that held out along lower slopes. At 1200A hours, 442 RCT reported advance at V-348575. At 1500A hours, 1st Bn, 141st Inf, closed assembly area vic DEYCEMONT. At 1600A hours, 3rd Bn, 141st Inf, was in contact at V-333590 = V-333-593, 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-348575. At 1825A hours, 442 RCT reported local engagement vic V-255432, in which two houses changed hands three times in course of a fierce fire fight before 425 RCT secured the area. At end of period, 442 RCT reported 3rd Bn on objective vic V-355566, with 100th Bn holding high ground vic V-348572 and V-348370.

SECRET

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