

I. FIRST PHASE: ASSAULT OF NORMANDY BEACH

D DAY - 6 JUNE 1944. The 29th Inf Div (less 116 RCT) with 26 RCT, Corps and Army troops (see Troop List, FO #1) was ordered to land on beach "OMAHA", behind the initial assault forces, on orders of CG, V Corps. 116 RCT (116th Inf, 111th FA Bn, supporting troops) had been attached to the 1st Inf Div for the initial landing.

FO #1, Hq 29th Inf Div, 21 April 1944, parts of which are quoted below, assigned the following tasks:

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"....The 29th Inf Div (less 116 RCT) with 26 RCT, Corps and Army troops attached (Force "B") will land on Beach "OMAHA" behind the initial assault force on orders CG, V Corps. Prior to assumption of command ashore by CG, V Corps, it will operate under control of CG, 1st Inf. Div. It will complete mopping up of enemy resistance and defend the D Day phase line in the right half of the Corps zone of action. It will continue patrolling to the D / 1 phase line...."

"....115 RCT, loaded with the foot elements of the 115th Inf on 12 LCI(L)s, will: Prepare to land the elements of the 115th Inf on "OMAHA" Dog Green beaches on orders of CG, V Corps, to operate under control of CG, 1st Inf Div. Land remainder of the 115th RCT on "OMAHA" Dog Green, Dog Red and Easy Green beaches on orders of CG, 29th Inf Div. Prepare to move to assigned assembly area or to area of employment as may be directed. Prepare to defend the position on the D Day objective, east of LA CAMBE (incl) in the Div zone for defense. Outpost without delay the high ground in the vicinity BOIS DE CALETTE - COLOMBIERES - BRICQUEVILLE. Initiate promptly patrolling to vicinity NEUILLY LA FORET - LISON - LE CARRETOUR - LA FOLIE - BAYNES. Prompt information of enemy strength and dispositions desired...."

"....175th Inf will land....and assemble in Corps Reserve...."

"....29th Cav Rcn Tr Lecz (less platoon with Force "B") ....be prepared upon landing to reconnoiter ISIGNY - CARENTAN - LES CLIPS DE LOSQUE - ST JEAN DE DAYE...."

"....116 RCT with 2nd and 5th Ranger Bns attached, upon reversion to 29th Inf Div, will prepare to defend the D Day objectives from LA CAMBE (excl) west to ISIGNY (incl) and the west banks of the VIRE River north thereof....Prepare to take over the defensive mission of the 115th Inf east of LA CAMBE....Be prepared to support the attack of the 115th Inf on ISIGNY made from positions south of the AUNE River...."

"....Radio silence until H Hour and until within 6 miles of beach.... Message centers will open immediately upon embarkation, and operation thereof will be continuous afloat and ashore....CPs, 29th Inf Div - Afloat - Aboard Hq Ship LCI(H). Ashore: VIERVILLE-SUR-MER. Axes, 29th Inf Div: VIERVILLE-SUR-MER - LONGUEVILLE - COLOMBIERES - LA FOLIE...."

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The 116th Inf landed and immediately proceeded to advance on ST LAURENT-SUR-MER, covering the exit, then turned west to reduce the beach defenses, one bn going as far as VIERVILLE-SUR-MER. The 115th Inf started landing about noon, two bns then being ordered to proceed to the south and west of ST LAURENT-SUR-MER. The 111th FA Bn lost all its weapons during the landing. The 175th Inf did not land until D / 1.

On the night of D Day the Div was disposed as follows: 115th Inf- one bn in ST LAURENT-SUR-MER, the other two bns southeast of the town. 116th Inf- one bn on road west of VIERVILLE-SUR-MER, one bn 100 meters west of ST LAURENT-SUR-MER, and one bn just north of ST LAURENT-SUR-MER. The location of the Div CP was a rock quarry just north of VIERVILLE-SUR-MER, and the Adv Div CP was located east of ST LAURENT-SUR-MER.

D / 1 - 7 JUNE 1944. FO #2, Hq 29th Inf Div, dated 071325B June 1944, ordered: "29th Inf Div continues advance to seize and defend D Day phase line in zone...." The 175th Inf, with 747th Tank Bn (less one Co) atchd, 224th FA Bn (atchd on landing), and a btry of 58th FA Bn, was

ordered, when it had closed after landing, to "Advance from assembly area, seize and hold ISIGNY with the least practicable delay." The 115th Inf, with Cos B and D, 81st Cml Bn attached, was ordered to continue its mission to the southwest of ST LAURENT. 26 RCT reverted to control of CG, 1st Inf Div, and 116 RCT, which reverted to control of CG, 29th Inf Div, was ordered to continue its mission of clearing the area west of VIERVILLE-SUR-MER.

The 2nd Inf Div had started to land. On the night of 7 June, the 115th Inf was advancing south toward LONGUEVILLE - NORMANVILLE. The 116th Inf was disposed west of ST LAURENT-SUR-MER - VIERVILLE, and the 175th Inf was closing into its assembly area.

END OF FIRST PHASE: ALL THREE REGIMENTS NOW ASHORE.

II. SECOND PHASE: CAPTURE OF ISIGNY AND PREPARATION TO CROSS INUNDATED AREA

D / 2 - 8 JUNE 1944. 29th Inf Div was ordered to continue the advance west to capture ISIGNY. The 115th Inf, with one company of 743rd Tank Bn attached, was ordered to seize and hold the LONGUEVILLE - NORMANVILLE ridge. The 116th Inf, (Atchd: 2nd and 5th Ranger Bns, 743rd Tank Bn less one Co, one Co of 81st Cml Bn,) was ordered to advance along coastal road, VIERVILLE-SUR-MER - GRANDCAMP - ISIGNY (excl), to mop up enemy resistance in zone along the coast, and to protect the right flank of the 175th Inf. 175th Inf, (atcd: 747th Tank Bn less one Co, one btry of 58th Armd FA Bn,) was to continue its mission of advancing on ISIGNY. The Div Arty, less Combat Team attachments, was ordered to coordinate naval and air support. IX AAF was to bomb ISIGNY with incendiary bombs prior to the attack of the 175th Inf.

At 2400 hours, 8 June 1944, units of the 29th Div were disposed as follows: 175 RCT was attacking ISIGNY from the northeast along road; 116 RCT was moving west along north coast, taking out strong points, GRANDCAMP-LES-BAINS; 115 RCT was holding the high ground through LONGUEVILLE. The weather was warm, dry, partly cloudy, with unlimited visibility. The beachhead had been deepened and the general situation was much improved.

D / 3 - 9 JUNE 1944. The 29th Div (atcd: 58th Armd FA Bn, 187th FA Bn, Cos B and D of 81st Cml Bn, 743rd and 747th Tank Bns) supported by air and naval gunfire, was ordered to advance from D Day positions, with the 115th Inf on the left, and 175th Inf on the right, to seize and organize for defense in depth the ISIGNY - NEUILLY LA FORET - LISON - LA FOTELATE positions. The advances from the D Day line to the initial objectives were to be made during the night 8-9 June.

The 115th Inf (atcd: Co B of 81st Cml Bn, 743rd Tank Bn) was ordered to capture initial objectives in their zone during the night 8-9 June, organize sector for defense, establish and maintain contact with 2nd Inf Div on the left, and commence advance from initial objective at 1200 hours to seize objectives LE CARRETOUR - Church southwest of LA FOLIE - MARGUERITE D'ELLE - LES CABLES. The 116th Inf, with 2nd and 5th Ranger Bns attached, was ordered to defend D Day positions in the Div zone, prepare to assemble as Div Res on Div Order vicinity BOIS DE CALETTE. The 175th Inf, Co D of 81st Cml Bn and 747th Tank Bn attached, was ordered to seize ISIGNY during night 8-9 June, seize and defend bridge across VIRE River at 4782, seize objectives 2000 yards southeast of NEUILLY LA FORET - LISON - LES ESSARTS without delay, organize sector for defense, and protect right flank of the Div.

On the night of 9 June, units of the 29th Div were disposed as follows: 175 RCT had occupied ISIGNY at 0200 hours, (the bridge over the AURE River was not destroyed,) and made contact with the enemy to the south and west, mopping up small pockets of resistance in and around ISIGNY. 115th Inf was in a defensive position along the LONGUEVILLE - NORMANVILLE ridge. The 116 RCT was assembling north of ST GERMAIN. The weather was cloudy, occasional rain, moderate temperature, visibility limited by fog with low ceiling. The men were fatigued, but combat efficiency was good.

END OF SECOND PHASE: ISIGNY TAKEN, TROOPS READY TO CROSS INUNDATED AREA.

III. THIRD PHASE: CROSSING OF INUNDATED AREA AND ADVANCE TO ELLE RIVER

D / 4 - 10 JUNE 1944. The 29th Div continued on the mission of crossing the inundated area. The 115th Inf crossed in a column of bns in the vicinity

of CANCHY and proceeded to positions ST MARGUERITE D'ELLE - LA COMMUNETTE - EPINAY TESSON. 175th Inf moved southeast from ISIGNY, being relieved of the mopping up mission around ISIGNY by a Prov Bn, CCA (2nd Armd Div), which was attached to the 29th Div, assisted by the 29th Cav Ren Tr, and occupied the line NEUILLY LA FORET - LISON - LES ESSARTS. The 116th Inf remained in defensive positions, vicinity ST GERMAIN DU PERT - LONGUEVILLE - NORMANVILLE. Field fortifications were erected.

D / 5 - 11 JUNE 1944. The Div spent the day consolidating positions, taking out pockets of resistance with patrols, and the 116th Inf crossed the inundated area to position in Div Reserve, vicinity BOIS DE CALLETTE. 111th FA Bn received its weapons the night of 11-12 June. Div CP moved to vicinity CASTILLY. Weather moderate, cloudy, occasional showers; visibility limited.

END OF THIRD PHASE: ALL THREE REGIMENTS ACROSS INUNDATED AREA;  
DIVISION ESTABLISHED ALONG ELLE RIVER.

#### IV. FOURTH PHASE: ADVANCE TOWARDS ST LO

D / 6 - 12 JUNE 1944. The landing of follow-up forces continued. 29th Div (atcd: 747th Tank Bn less Co B, 58th Armd FA Bn, 187th FA Bn, 200th FA Bn, two Cos 81st Cml Bn) was ordered to clear ST CLAIR-SUR-L'ELLE - COUVAINS and protect the right flank of V Corps. 115th Inf, with Co of 81st Cml Bn, was to make its main effort on its left to secure ST CLAIR-SUR-L'ELLE - COUVAINS, gain and maintain contact with 2nd Inf Div on left, and organize positions for defense. 116th Inf, (Div Reserve,) was ordered to prepare to move to vicinity CASTILLY. 175th Inf, (atcd: one Co, 81st Cml Bn,) was ordered to mop up enemy resistance along VIRE River to AIRE, seize and block crossings over VIRE River, and maintain physical contact with 115th Inf on left.

On the night of 12 June, one bn of 115th Inf had succeeded in crossing the ELLE River and was south of ST JEAN DE SAVIGNY; the remaining two bns were in defensive position on the north banks of the river. 116th Inf was ordered at 1630 hours to cross the river and carry out the missions assigned to the 115th Inf. This regiment succeeded in crossing at 2015 hours in a column of bns, and at 2400 hours was in vicinity of ST JEAN DE SAVIGNY. 175th Inf had sent two rifle Cos to cross the VIRE River vicinity MONTMARTIN-EN-CRAIGNES to seize bridges across VIRE ET TAUTE Canal. These companies succeeded in crossing the VIRE River, but did not get past MONTMARTIN-EN-CRAIGNES because of enemy resistance. Remainder of the 175th Inf continued to improve its positions acquired the day before. Weather was clear, with unlimited visibility.

On the following day, 13 June 1944, (D / 7,) the bn of the 115th Inf that had crossed the ELLE River was attached to the 116th Inf. 116th Inf continued the attack, enveloping ST CLAIR-SUR-L'ELLE from the southeast. COUVAINS was captured. The regiment then organized these positions for defense. 175th Inf continued defense of right half of Div sector, and the 115th Inf (less one bn) continued in defensive positions north of the ELLE River. The two companies of the 175th Inf which had been sent out to secure crossings of the VIRE River withdrew east of the river. Weather was moderate, partly cloudy, unlimited visibility.

The following day was spent in consolidating the positions. The Div was transferred from V Corps to XIX Corps, effective 1200 hours, 14 June 1944. The 227th FA Bn was attached to 30th Inf Div Arty, until that Div's own artillery arrived. The 58th FA Bn (Armd), 187th FA Bn, 200th FA Bn and 230th FA Bn were detached. 459th AAA AW Bn, less one btry, was attached to the 29th Div. No change in the weather. Troops were being rested.

On 15 June, (D / 8,) the regiments remained in defensive positions, with active patrolling to their front. 30th Inf Div relieved elements of the 175th Inf north of the RIEU River, the regiment assembling vicinity LES ESSARTS - MOON-SUR-ELLE. This relief resulted in the strengthening of the Div's positions. 227th FA Bn returned to Div control. Some replacements were received. No change in the weather.

On 16 June, (D / 9,) the Div attacked at 0800 hours to secure the line AMY - LES BUTEAUX - LA LUZERNE - LA BIOTRIE. 115th Inf (less one bn) assembled vicinity ST MARGUERITE D'ELLE as Corps Reserve. 116th Inf, on the left, (atcd: 3rd Bn, 115th Inf, one Co of 81st Cml Bn, one Co, 747th Tank Bn,) made its main effort on the left and experienced strong resistance from MGs and 88mms. Fighting continued throughout the night. 175th Inf attacked at 0800 hours with two bns abreast, secured the line AMY - LES BUTEAUX, and continued contact with the enemy with strong patrols.

A pocket of resistance, infantry strength undetermined, which included some SP 88mms, had been by-passed and left vicinity northwest, west and southwest of ST CLAIR-SUR-L'ELLE. One bn of the 115th Inf was in contact with this enemy.

On 17 June, (D / 10,) the Div resumed the attack at 0400 hours, 116th Inf on left, with attachments, to secure its designated objectives which were reached before dark. 175th Inf, on right, with attachments, attacked at 0400 hours to seize and hold the high ground LA MOUFFLE - 1000 meters north LES MESNIL-ROUXELIN, and succeeded in obtaining their objectives by late evening. 115th Inf had been released to Div Control from XIX Corps Reserve. They were ordered to mop up enemy resistance vicinity ST CLAIR-SUR-L'ELLE, which was completed before noon. They then attacked with one bn, at noon, enemy positions vicinity BOIS DE BRETEL, in the direction southwest of LA LUZERNE, another bn being put into the attack in the late evening. The regiment stopped for the night northeast of the line LA FOSSARDIERE - VILLIERS FOSSARD. No change in weather.

The Div, reinforced, resumed the attack at 0800 hours, 18 June, (D / 11,) to secure objectives LA CRETERIE - LA LUZERNE - High ground southwest ST ANDRE DE L'EPINE. 115th Inf (less one bn) resumed their attack to seize and hold high ground vicinity LA LUZERNE, but was immediately pinned down and could not advance, and in late afternoon resumed the defense. 175th Inf attacked with one bn in direction LA CRETERIE and by late afternoon occupied its objective. This bn was later cut off from the remainder of the regiment, and one other bn was sent to its assistance and succeeded in re-establishing the line.

On the following day, 19 June, (D / 12,) all three regiments remained in positions, conducting vigorous patrolling to the front and flanks. A minor counterattack developed in the 115th Inf sector but was repelled. Co A and C, 121st Engr Bn, were put in on the right of the 115th Inf to strengthen the defense, and by late evening was actively engaged with the enemy north of VILLIERS FOSSARD. Weather cloudy, rain; visibility poor.

On 20 June, (D / 13,) the 116th Inf and 175th Inf continued in defensive positions, conducting active patrolling. 115th Inf attacked in conjunction with the 121st Engr Bn (less one Co) to seize and hold VILLIERS FOSSARD, and by nightfall was in position 1000 meters north of VILLIERS FOSSARD, and had established contact with 175th Inf on the right. The weather had moderated and visibility improved.

Beginning on 21 June, (D / 14,) the Div assumed the active defense, with all bns, including the engineer bn, on the line. Aggressive patrolling was conducted day and night. 121st Engr Bn was relieved by elements of the 115th Inf on 22 June. On 25 June, the strength of the regiments had been built up to the point where the 116th Inf was enabled to withdraw one bn from the line to regimental reserve. This bn started infantry-tank training in coordinated attacks of hedgerows. Throughout this period active patrolling continued. Troops were well rested and morale was high. Weather continued mild and visibility unlimited.

On 26 June, the 175th Inf withdrew one bn to regimental reserve, which started conducting small unit training. A minor attack was received in the 175th Inf sector during the early morning hours of 26 June, but was beaten back. The 803rd TD Bn was detached 0300 hours, 27 June. Weather changed to cloudy, rain, visibility limited, which continued through 28 June.

The Div continued to defend its positions. On 29 June, Combat Command "A", 3rd Armd Div, was ordered by XIX Corps to attack through the 29th Div and, supported by artillery-infantry fire of 29th Div, reduce the VILLIERS-FOSSARD Salient. 29th Div was ordered to be prepared to relieve elements of C Comd "A" on their final objectives.

C Comd "A" attacked through the zone of the 115th Inf at 0900 hours, 29 June, and at the close of the day had progressed to a point 600 yards south of VILLIERS-FOSSARD - LA FOSSARDIERE. 115th Inf moved up to secure the ground won by the 3rd Armd Div during the night. 116th Inf moved one bn to a position east of LA FOSSARDIERE in preparation to seize objectives when ordered. 175th Inf continued to defend its positions. Morale continued high; weather clear and cool until late afternoon, thereafter local showers.

On 30 June, C Comd "A" resumed its attack until 1500 hours, when the attack was ordered stopped by CG, XIX Corps, at which time the 115th Inf was ordered forward to occupy and defend the line 1000 meters south of VILLIERS-FOSSARD - BRETEL, relief of C Comd "A" being completed by 2130 hours. 116th Inf occupied, with one bn, the orchard south of BOIS DE BRETEL. 175th Inf remained in active defense.

During the period 6 June to 30 June, the Div had advanced about eighteen miles, being in constant contact with the enemy, and by midnight, June 30, was located in positions LA CONTERIE - LES BUTEAUX - Point 900 meters north LES MESNIL-ROUXELIN - LA FORGE - BRETEL - 1000 meters south BOIS DE BRETEL - LA GIFFAROIERE and was in a favorable position for an attack on ST LO. Morale of the individual soldier remained high throughout the period.