

OPERATIONS SUMMARY – 397TH INFANTRY REGIMENT

APRIL 1945

MAP REFERENCE: Germany 1/100,000

APRIL 1

1st Bn: Left Plankstadt at 0630 and crossed line of departure at 0800 passing through the line held by the 3rd Battalion in the vicinity of Offersheim – Bruchhausen. No enemy resistance was encountered and the advance of some nine (9) miles was impeded slightly by road-blocks which were quickly reduced by the A & P Platoon. The Battalion secured Walldorf and billeted there for the night.

2nd Bn: Left Eppelheim crossing the IP at 0615. It was impeded in its advance by 88mm fire, 75mm and some small arms fire. It cleared Brauchhausen, Sandhausen and Wiesloch. It finally secured Weisloch and remained there for the night.

3rd Bn: Moved to Sandhausen from its former positions where the town was strafed by enemy planes. Patrols were sent out. Five (5) Russian soldiers surrendered. The Battalion experienced slight enemy activity.

ANTITANK CO: Furnished Anti-Tank protection to the Regimental left flank.

WEATHER: Clear. Visibility fair.

PRISONERS: 337 (To date 1359)

REINFORCEMENTS: None

CASUALTIES: Off – 1 SWA. EM – 5 SWA; 6 LWA

APRIL 2

1st Bn: Moved by foot to take Eichersheim and encountered enemy resistance in the form of sniper fire upon entering the town. The Battalion moved

OPERATIONS SUMMARY 397TH INFANTRY REGIMENT (Continued)

to Michelfeld through a road block and some automatic fire. During this period it succeeded in clearing the towns of Rotenberg, Tairnbach, Mulhausen and Eschelbach. There was no organized resistance.

2nd Bn: Moved out in column and was shelled intermittently by heavy barrages of enemy artillery. It cleared the towns of Harrenburg, Hoffenheim and Sinsheim, where the troops were billeted for the night. Scattered sniper fire was received from the vicinity of (7587768).

3rd Bn: Moved from its reserve positions in Sandhausen, clearing Briertal and Dielheim, closing into Dielheim at 1800. A number of German prisoners were taken.

WEATHER: Clear. Visibility clear.

PRISONERS: 1080 (To date 2439)

REINFORCEMENTS: Two newly commissioned officers.

CASUALTIES: EM – 3 MIA; 7 LWA

APRIL 3

1st Bn: Jumped off from Michelfeld and moved forward fast for about nine (9) miles, meeting no resistance. The Battalion encountered intermittent artillery, automatic weapon and small arms fire in the vicinity of Michelfeld. Encountered road blocks which were quickly reduced. The Battalion cleared Waldangallock. Co A at end of period remained in Berkingenn and Co C shuttled by tank to Ittlingen and billeted there for the night.

2nd Bn: Left Sinsheim, receiving tank support. It took Weiler and after clearing that town attacked Hillsbach, then the attack was diverted to the east where it moved over to Furfeld. Several mine fields were encountered.

OPERATIONS SUMMARY 397TH INFANTRY REGIMENT (Continued)

3rd Bn: Left Mulhausen in attack with supporting tanks and protected the right flank of the Regiment by occupying and patrolling in the vicinity of Mulhausen, Eichertersheim and Duhern. Karchardt was cleared although the approach to it was slowed down considerably by mines and poor roads. The Battalion was then ordered to continue its attack to the east.

WEATHER: Clear. Visibility fair.

PRISONERS: 274 (To date 2713)

REINFORCEMENTS: None

CASUALTIES: EM – 9 LWA.

APRIL 4

1st Bn: Advanced to the East towards Berwagen and thereafter the companies trucks and tanks moved towards Frankenbach. There was no enemy action experienced and no casualties. The troops were billeted in houses in Frankenbach to await further orders.

2nd Bn: After having been billeted in Fulfeld for the night, left and crossed the Neckar River in assault boats to Heilbronn at about 1400. There were several casualties due to enemy intermittent shelling and small arms fire. A number of prisoners were taken.

3rd Bn: Advanced from all positions to establish an assembly point at Neckargartach, and at 1600 prepared to cross the Neckar River in assault boats immediately upon crossing of the 2nd Battalion.

CANNON CO: Fired 52 rounds of HE at enemy Observation Post and for registration.

WEATHER: Clear. Visibility fair.

PRISONERS: 36 (To date 2749)

REINFORCEMENTS: None

CASUALTIES: Off – 1 MIA; EM – 3 MIA; 2 SWA; 7 LWA.

OPERATIONS SUMMARY 397TH INFANTRY REGIMENT (Continued)

APRIL 5

1st Bn: Crossed by foot from Frankenbach to the west bank of the Neckar River. This move was preparatory to launching an attack from that portion of Heilbronn west of the vicinity of R074604 from the vicinity of R064613. The Battalion suffered some sniper and artillery fire. Co C crossed River in assault boats commencing at 1830, and took up positions on the east bank of the river which had been covered by a smoke screen. The company suffered light casualties. The Battalion took about eighty (80) prisoners.

2nd Bn: Suffered heavy casualties through stubborn enemy resistance, and engaged in a fire fight after crossing Neckar River and in attempting to clear its position of Heilbronn.

3rd Bn: Crossing of the Neckar River during the dark hours was prevented due to heavy concentration of artillery and mortar fire falling on crossing site. I company crossed under smoke screen and advanced 400 yards where it was pinned down by enemy fire. K Company moved from Neckargartach at 1800 and crossed Neckar River by assault boats into Heilbronn. L Company moved out of Neckargartach at 1100 and crossed river by assault boats.

CANNON CO: Fired 124 rounds of HE at targets of registration and enemy personnel.

WEATHER: Cloudy. Visibility Fair.

PRISONERS: 334 (To date 3,083)

REINFORCEMENTS: None

CASUALTIES: EM – 8 MIA; 7 SWA; 36 LWA.

APRIL 6

1st Bn: Completed crossing of the Neckar River during the night with heavy machine gun and light mortar artillery so intense that the assault boats

OPERATIONS SUMMARY 397TH INFANTRY REGIMENT (Continued)

had to discontinue, and then took up again during the afternoon. There was a counterattack supported by armor at about 1800. Some casualties were sustained. Large groups of prisoners of war and civilians were taken from the east side of the river.

2nd Bn: Cleared out factory buildings in the industrial area in the northern sector of Heilbronn after moving to the south along the east bank of the Neckar River. It advanced under artillery, mortar, rocket, small arms and sniper fire.

3rd Bn: Moved to the South along the East bank of the Neckar River clearing the industrial area in the northern sector of Heilbronn against little enemy resistance of small arms fire and heavy artillery and mortar fire.

CANNON CO: Fired 205 rounds of HE at targets such as enemy troops, Observation Posts and interdiction. The Company also aided in laying smoke screens for troop movements.

ANTITANK CO: Sent out combat patrols which received enemy artillery fire in the vicinity of Heinkenbach.

WEATHER: Cloudy. Visibility fair.

PRISONERS: 56 (To date 3,139)

REINFORCEMENTS: EM – 49

CASUALTIES: Off – 1 MIA. EM 17 MIA; Off – 1 LWA. EM – 6 SWA; 23 LWA.

APRIL 7

1st Bn: Remained in Heilbronn, being forced to withdraw slightly due to heavy sniper fire. Company A was counterattacked by enemy Infantry supported by tanks, artillery and bazookas, but held on firmly with slight resultant casualties. Company B re-took two city blocks previously lost and suffered considerable sniper fire with its Company Commander being killed. Company D held

OPERATIONS SUMMARY 397TH INFANTRY REGIMENT (Continued)

positions under heavy enemy resistance.

2nd Bn: Continued its advance into Heilbronn meeting little enemy resistance. Company E advanced 300 yards taking up new dug in defensive positions and being subjected to heavy artillery and mortar fire, accounting for eleven (11) casualties. Company F continued to clear buildings and houses with little opposition and slight artillery fire. The company took nine (9) prisoners. Company G remained in defensive position until preliminary artillery preparation was laid and smoke covered their crossing of open ground. The factories and debris were cleared for 500 yards and then Company turned to left front. Clearing more houses and factories. Company H moved forward from 300 to 400 yards in support of the Battalion.

3rd Bn: Gained in its advance upon Heilbronn, attacking and clearing the Northern section which was a factory district, and enemy defenses were noted weakening.

CANNON CO: Fired 154 rounds of HE at tanks, enemy personnel, interdiction targets and for registration. All this fire was reported as effective. Several rounds repelled the enemy counterattack at about 1715.

WEATHER: Cloudy. Visibility fair.

PRISONERS: 84 (To date 3223)

REINFORCEMENTS: EM – 93

CASUALTIES: EM – 4 MIA; 13 LWA.

APRIL 8

1st Bn: Remained in position and was subjected to shelling by mortar, artillery and rockets. Bridge set up by Engineers was repeatedly hit with enemy artillery and rendered useless. Both sides of the Neckar River were heavily shelled by the enemy.

OPERATIONS SUMMARY 397TH INFANTRY REGIMENT (Continued)

2nd Bn: Continued its attacks despite much small arms and sniper fire. Company E advanced about 100 yards further South and set up defensive positions HE of the factory area. Company F continued to clear buildings and houses, meeting stubborn resistance from enemy snipers, which, however, did not defeat the Company attaining its objective. About two score prisoners were taken. Company G remained in defensive positions. Civilians negotiated the surrender of twenty-three enemy. Aircraft strafed the enemy during the attack.

3rd Bn: Moved South through the industrial section of the city midst heavy small arms, automatic weapons and panzerfaust fire. At the close of the period the Battalion had seized the North end of the important railroad bridge believed to be in usable condition.

CANNON CO: Fired 146 rounds of HE at enemy personnel, interdiction points, tanks and for registration. Forward observer succeeded in knocking out two (2) enemy tanks as well as making all fire missions effective.

ANTITANK CO: Reinforced the 1st Battalion as a rifle company to assist in clearing the enemy in Heilbronn, and succeeded in securing the bridge.

WEATHER: Fair. Visibility good.

PRISONERS: 63 (To date 3286)

REINFORCEMENTS: None

CASUALTIES: EM – 1 MIA; 8 SWA; 20 LWA.

APRIL 9

1st Bn: Suffered much enemy artillery during this period with increased enemy pressure from the east against it. Company A advanced one block to the E in the face of determined resistance but soon withdrew to old positions due to infiltration by Infantry on the right flank. These infiltrating enemy were

OPERATIONS SUMMARY 397TH INFANTRY REGIMENT (Continued)

soon liquidated.

2nd Bn: Was counterattacked at 0200 after a terrific barrage of enemy artillery and rockets which lasted until 0400. The companies continued to hold their positions while the elements of the 3rd Battalion passed through. There was considerable air support afforded the battalions.

3rd Bn: Began an attack and continued its advance to the S, clearing the remaining buildings down to the bend in the river at R075620 and railroad R080620. Some slight gains were noted despite the heavy artillery and mortar fire encountered.

CANNON CO: Fired 13 rounds of HE in support of the front line advances firing at tanks and troops.

WEATHER: Clear visibility excellent

PRISONERS: 76 (To date 3362)

REINFORCEMENTS: None

CASUALTIES: Off – 1 MIA; 2 SWA; 1 LWA. EM – 12 MIA; 20 SWA; 21 LWA.

APRIL 10

1st Bn: Continued to advance N towards the 3rd Battalion. It received 105mm artillery fire on the bridge site. It seemed to be observed fire. The Battalion cleared 7 blocks of buildings against moderate resistance to reach the Southern corner of the enemy strong point and bring our bridgeheads within one block of a junction. There was considerable small arms and automatic weapons fire.

2nd Bn: Continued in defensive positions and proceeded to clean out buildings in the area. Small arms. Automatic weapons, artillery and mortar fire was suffered. No casualties reported.

3rd Bn: Continued to clear area to the S after demolishing several

OPERATIONS SUMMARY 397TH INFANTRY REGIMENT (Continued)

buildings to its flank by heavy artillery fire. Elements of the Battalion worked around the strong point to escort the tanks provided the Battalion with much needed armor support. Fighting continued in the N section in the streets. Main line of resistance remained at the railroad tracks.

CANNON CO: Fired 81 rounds of HE at enemy personnel, machine gun positions and for registration.

ANTITANK CO: Gave direct support to the Battalion as an Infantry patrol to clear area of snipers and infiltration parties.

WEATHER: Warm. Visibility good.

PRISONERS: 29 (To date 3391)

REINFORCEMENTS: EM – 98

CASUALTIES: EM – 5 MIA; 4 SWA; 9 LWA

APRIL 11

1st Bn: Suffered one casualty in its continuing advance to the N in which it made contact with elements of the 3rd Battalion R081618. It received much enemy artillery on the west bank of the river. Company A moved to Battalion reserve in the vicinity of R081607. Companies B and C continued to push to the E under small arms and sniper fire.

2nd Bn: Was impeded in its advance E due to continuous small arms and sniper fire. It lay down a heavy smoke barrage at 1700 and went into attack. Company G, with tank support, gained about 300 yards, took scores of prisoners, cleared several buildings and sustained one casualty.

3rd Bn: Consolidated its lines and continued advance to the E making some slight gains, engaging in street fighting. Considerable artillery and mortar fire was received in certain sectors of 3rd Battalion positions.

OPERATIONS SUMMARY 397TH INFANTRY REGIMENT (Continued)

CANNON CO: Fired 283 rounds of HE at new registration points, enemy personnel and machine gun positions.

ANTITANK CO: Guarded E end of railroad bridge and the right flank of the Battalion.

WEATHER: Warm

PRISONERS: 127 (To date 3518)

REINFORCEMENTS: None

CASUALTIES: EM – 2 MIA; 3 SWA; 4 LWA.

APRIL 12

1ST Bn: Jumped off in attack at 0800 encountering light resistance. The Battalion captured a hospital with a considerable number of German patients estimated at 650. While Company A remained in reserve, Company B continued to clear buildings S of railroad vicinity 088601 under heavy artillery fire. Company D, meeting heavy resistance, took its objective supported by tanks and artillery.

2nd Bn: Sent out patrol at 0200 of twenty-two (22) men to high ground (R094634). It reached road vicinity (R086634) but did not complete mission. Company F dispatched patrol to high ground and accomplished that mission at 1455 with many prisoners taken. At close of period Companies E and G were advancing on their objective while F Company was deployed.

3rd Bn: Established contact with the 1st Battalion on the right and the 2nd Battalion on the left. It continued its advance to the E clearing the remaining buildings. At 1500 it was ordered to seize the high ground in the vicinity of (R110620), however, strong point vicinity (R102613) and (R103618) prevented the Battalion from reaching their objective through heavy automatic weapon and small arms fire, and the strong point on high ground 09-64 prevented

OPERATIONS SUMMARY 397TH INFANTRY REGIMENT (Continued)

our troops from occupying it and forced them to withdraw.

CANNON CO: Fired 213 rounds of HE at enemy personnel, as some cover, for registration and at targets of interdiction.

WEATHER: Cloudy. Visibility good.

PRISONERS: 712 (To date 3580)

REINFORCEMENTS: None

CASUALTIES: EM – 1 MIA.

APRIL 13

1st Bn: Moved from Hill 303 near Heilbronn to Weinsberg, where they closed at 1630 suffering no enemy action and remained billeted in homes in the town, except that Company A went to Ellhofen where it billeted for the night.

2nd Bn: Began an attack for the capture of Weinsberg and Ellhofen. Company E captured Hill 303 vicinity (S0963) and was relieved by Antitank Company at 1200. Company F, with tank support, jumped off at 1100, encountering sniper and artillery fire during its march. It entered Oberheinriet meeting stiff enemy resistance resulting in several casualties and many German prisoners taken. Company G left Heilbronn at about 1145 and moved with tank and TD support to Weinsberg where no enemy was encountered. However, resistance was offered as the company moved along to Ellhofen and Lehrensteinfeld, which was captured after a fire fight.

3rd Bn: Advanced about four (4) miles toward Weinsberg after it had cleared out the remaining houses in Heilbronn. It hit the enemy strong point of about 120 men dug in west of Donnbronn. The Battalion received 50mm mortar fire and heavy concentrations of rockets from positions in the vicinity of (R142548) and (R078546).

CANNON CO: Provided smoke screen for troop movements and prepared to

OPERATIONS SUMMARY 397TH INFANTRY REGIMENT (Continued)

advance into new positions.

ANTITANK CO: Moved into positions in the rear of the 2nd Battalion.

WEATHER: Cloudy, light rain. Visibility fair.

PRISONERS: 101 (To date 4331)

REINFORCEMENTS: None

CASUALTIES: Off – 2 LWA. EM – 2 MIA; 1 DOW; 6 SWA; 7 LWA.

APRIL 14

1st Bn: Moved by truck to Lehrensteinfeld from its reserve positions in Weinsberg, Thereafter, Companies B and G took to the wooded area SE of the town and flushed the forest for possible bypassed enemy, meeting light resistance and taking six (6) prisoners.

2nd Bn: Continued to attack S and clear Unterheinreit. Company E engaged in much house to house fighting in an attempt to clear the Oberheinreit sector. Enemy artillery and rocket barrage was suffered but succeeded in driving the enemy out. 2nd Battalion supply line was cut but was re-established before the close of the period.

3rd Bn: Continued to advance to the SE in the vicinity of highway number 3 and seized the town of Obergruppenbach clearing snipers from the town and taking forty (40) prisoners. The Battalion continued its advance as Company K moved to the SW toward Donnbronn and I and L companies moved S towards Obergruppenbach, which they took at 1530.

CANNON CO: Fired 169 rounds of HE for registration and at enemy personnel.

ANTITANK CO: Assembled at Lehrensteinfeld and established road blocks

WEATHER: Clear. Visibility fair

PRISONERS: 108 (To date 4439)

OPERATIONS SUMMARY 397TH INFANTRY REGIMENT (Continued)

REINFORCEMENTS: EM - 7

CASUALTIES: Off – 1 SWA; 2 LWA. EM – 6 MIA; 2 SWA; 8 LWA.

APRIL 15

1st Bn: Reinforced the 2nd Battalion moving from its positions in the vicinity of (R163583). Company A left Lehrensteinfeld at about noon and moved into the attack by foot E in the direction of Verhof, moving through woods, meeting resistance and suffering much shelling. By the close of the period a company was driven into the town from the W, engaging in a small arms fight but had not yet reached its objective. Company B had the mission to take the high ground outside of town and did so.

2nd Bn: Engaged in a fire fight against an estimated 250 enemy supported by artillery and heavy mortar fire. The Battalion repulsed counterattack commenced at about 1400 and cleared the town of Oberheinreit continuing to advance S to seize Unterheinreit. The companies then marched to Etyransnenden and with little opposition took the town.

3rd Bn: Continued its advance to the SW toward Untergruppenbach, and that town was cleared of the enemy. Company K captured Donnbronn at 0700 and then the company joined the Battalion in the advance towards its objective.

CANNON CO: Fired 235 rounds of HE at enemy personnel in an effort to stop the enemy counterattack.

ANTITANK CO: Maintained road blocks and patrols in the vicinity of Lehrensteinfeld, capturing several enemy.

WEATHER: Clear. Visibility fair.

PRISONERS: 129 (To date 4568)

REINFORCEMENTS: None

CASUALTIES: EM – 2 MIA; 4 SWA; 35 LWA.

OPERATIONS SUMMARY 397TH INFANTRY REGIMENT (Continued)

APRIL 16

1st Bn: Attacked to seize Vorhif (R183557). Company A jumped off at 0900 supported by tanks travelling E for a distance of eight (8) miles meeting occasional sniper fire. Company B jumped off at 0800 moving NE through the woods to the town of Lowenstein, moving on to high ground just out of town. It jumped off again and met heavy enemy small arms and artillery fire, resulting in slight casualties and a number of the enemy were killed, wounded and captured. Company C jumped off at 1000, meeting slight enemy resistance and then jumped off again at 1500 from Lowenstein meeting more resistance and then dug in at Stangenbach.

2nd Bn: Continued advance to the S to clear Farnersberg and Etelenswenden. Company E moved S towards Kaisersbach but was pinned down by small arms and automatic weapon fire from the SE. A number of prisoners, including some ranking officers were taken, while the Battalion sustained several casualties.

3rd Bn: Sent elements to seize and occupy the town of Frankenhof and Reisoeh.

CANNON CO: Fired 15 rounds of HE at enemy artillery battery and personnel. It emplaced 4 guns forward to support the front lines.

WEATHER: Clear. Visibility fair.

PRISONERS: 76 (To date 4644)

REINFORCEMENTS: 109

CASUALTIES: EM – 1 MIA; 1 SWA; 4 LWA.

APRIL 17

1st Bn: Continued in its advance to the E to clear Hirtweiler and Bernbach, and then turned S to Wustenrot, and took the town of Hasenhof and

OPERATIONS SUMMARY 397TH INFANTRY REGIMENT (Continued)

also Wustenrot, Spitzenhof, Kuhnwieler and Vorder Buchelberg. Company A dug in at close of period on the outskirts of Vorder Buchelberg. Company B jumped off at 0800 moving S on tanks and receiving much enemy artillery and small arms fire. Company C jumped off at 0730 for a distance of eight (8) miles, meeting light enemy resistance and mortar fire. Several casualties were sustained by the Battalion while more than forty (40) prisoners were taken.

2nd Bn: Continued to clear woods and small towns opening a temporary road from Unt Heinriet to Etelenswenden. Company E attacked and cleared Maad while under constant artillery and mortar fire as well as intense small arms fire and automatic weapons fire. Companies F and G moved to Hillensbach to protect flank of the Battalion.

3rd Bn: Continued to follow the 1st Battalion in mopping up operations. Elements of Company I with the help of the Engineers and tanks, cleared supply route to 2nd Battalion at Etelenswenden, encountering numerous abatis. Company K occupied Schnellenhof and Stangenbach, sending patrols out to Greuthof and Altautern. Company L moved to Lowenstein.

CANNON CO: Fired 177 rounds of HE at enemy personnel and machine gun positions acting in general support of the Regiment.

ANTITANK CO: Sent out patrols drawing small arms and direct fire of approximately 37mm from Steinberg.

WEATHER: Clear. Visibility good.

PRISONERS: 134. (To date 4778)

REINFORCEMENTS: None

CASUALTIES: EM – 3 MIA; 8 SWA; 14 LWA.

OPERATIONS SUMMARY 397TH INFANTRY REGIMENT (Continued)

APRIL 18

1st Bn: Encountered scattered small arms resistance in its progress to the S in clearing Neufurstenhutte, Obfischbach, Gross Hochberg and Mittelfischbach. Company A jumped off at about 1300 moved to Gross Hochberg about 2000 yards then to Spiegelberg, its final objective where it dug in for the night. Company B jumped off at 1107 moving 3200 yards to Neufurstenhutte, its final objective. Company C jumped off at 1300 meeting slight enemy resistance through three (3) towns for approximately four (4) miles.

2nd Bn: Continued to clear the woods and small towns of Maad, Jettenbach, Klingen, Kaiserbach, Stocksberg and Prevorst. The three (3) rifle companies verged on the town of Prevorst after Company E cleared this town.

3rd Bn: Companies L and K remained in reserve in the vicinity of Lowenstein and Schnellenhof. Company I cleared the main road from Greuthof to Neulautern and at the close of the period was moving in the direction of Spiegelberg to link up with Company A. The Battalion met no resistance in clearing Neulautern and the road S of Spiegelberg.

WEATHER: Clear. Visibility fair. REINFORCEMENTS: None

PRISONERS: 54 (To date 4832) CASUALTIES: Off-1 LWA. EM-1 SWA; 2 LWA.

APRIL 19

1st Bn: Advanced to the SE with slight opposition to clear the towns of Siebersbach, Klein, Hochberg, Berwinkel, Liemannaklinge, Esschenstruet and Zwerenberg. Company A left Spiegelberg at 1125 and moved NW to Grosherlach. Attacked at 1405 S to Berwinkel and took it without opposition. The company kept going S to Sulzbach, suffering artillery shelling. Distance covered during this period was 15½ miles. Company B jumped off in attack at 0800 encountering small arms fire with no resultant casualties. Company moved into Schweinberg after having taken several towns. Company C jumped off at 0830 taking two towns without

OPERATIONS SUMMARY 397TH INFANTRY REGIMENT (Continued)

resistance but suffered small arms and artillery fire in Sulzbach.

2nd Bn: With the exception of Company E and Company G remained in Prevorst. Company E left Prevorst at 0700 to take Hofbach, which it took at 1000, then left at 1700 marching to Gross Hochberg, suffering artillery, mortar and small arms fire. Company G left Prevorst at 1725 to Spiegelberg with the only resistance offered being felled trees across the road. It pressed through Spiegelberg continuing to Gross Hochberg, then out through small trail in wooded area to Klein Hochberg.

3rd Bn: Passed through elements of the 2nd Battalion in the vicinity of Provorst and continued advance to the South. Company I left Spiegelberg and advanced SW with tank support to Bernhalden, encountering lightly defended road blocks enroute. Company K moved to S in the vicinity of Nassach where it suffered heavy mortar fire from the SW. Company L left Spiegelberg at 1000 and engaged in a fire fight of small arms and sniper fire at Jux. The company soon overcame this resistance and after capturing the town the company advanced south.

CANNON CO: Fired 22 rounds of HE at enemy personnel, artillery and for registration. It left Hoblenfantz for Neulautern and immediately set guns into position.

WEATHER: Clear. Visibility Fair

PRISONERS: 57 (to date 4889)

REINFORCEMENTS: None

CASUALTIES: Off – 1 MIA. EM – 2 SWA; 3 LWA.

APRIL 20

1st Bn: Crossed the Murr River at Murrhardt suffering mortar shelling from 75 mm guns in the vicinity of Lippoldaweiler. After having cleared Sulzbach then moving S toward Seabselberg, the advance continued against moderate small arms and

OPERATIONS SUMMARY 397TH INFANTRY REGIMENT (Continued)

anti-tank gun fire and light mortar fire. The Battalion's advance was considerably hindered due to extensive road blocks, but, nevertheless succeeded in taking these towns Euleenhofle, Waltersberg, Horschof, Rottmannsberg, Seabselberg, Erbersberg, Lippoldsweiler, Dafern and Hohnweiler.

2nd Bn: Moved by truck from assembly area south-west. Company E left Brosshoch on tanks and attacked Mittelbruden, then marched to Unterbruden, arriving at 2000. Company F took motor march arriving at Unterbruden. Battalion moved S to take up reserve positions in the vicinity of Unt Weissach.

3rd Bn: Advance continued to the SW toward its objective in the face of heavy artillery and mortar fire. The companies seized Reichenberg, Opperweiler, Backang, Ungeheurhof, Heiningen and Allinersbach at the close of the period the Battalion was continuing to advance towards the south, having reached and cleared Allinersbach. In addition to the moderate small arms and anti-tank gun fire, there were extensive road blocks and blown bridges that the Battalion encountered.

CANNON CO: Left Neulautern and organized a patrol at Unt Bruden to subdue enemy resistance. Though thorough search was made of the town and small arms fire was received, only one prisoner was taken with no other enemy found.

WEATHER: Clear. Visibility fair.

PRISONERS: 69. (To date 4958)

REINFORCEMENTS: EM - 122

CASUALTIES: Off - 1 MIA. EM - 1 MIA; 5 SWA; 7 LWA.

APRIL 21

1st Bn: Continued to attack to the S clearing the towns of Abr Weissach, Seelach, Unt Mttl, Michelau, Asperglen, Metzlenweilerhof and Schornach. The Battalion entered the outskirts of Schorndorf and moved west. Battalion reorganized in the vicinity of Wintersbach and resumed attack to S crossing Rems River

OPERATIONS SUMMARY 397TH INFANTRY REGIMENT (Continued)

and advancing to positions as the period closed. Numerous road blocks and blown bridges encountered during period.

2nd Bn: Left assembly area vicinity of Unt Gruben at 1100 to check towns and roads in the Regimental zone in rear of the 1st and 3rd Battalions. At the close of the period leading elements of the Battalion had reached Hosslinswart.

3rd Bn: Continued attack to the S clearing following towns: Allmersbach, Konigsbrunnhof, Rettersberg, Oppelsbohm, Steinach, Hosslinswart, Rohrbronn, Nebsack, Geradstetten, Grunbach and Heppach. At the close of the period the Battalion was crossing the Rems River, continuing attack to the S and had reached positions of advantage. Numerous road blocks, blown bridges and abatis were encountered during period.

WEATHER: Clear. Visibility Fair.

PRISONERS: 166 (To date 5124)

REINFORCEMENTS: None

CASUALTIES: EM – 3 MIA; 1 LWA.

APRIL 22

1st Bn: Continued advance to the S clearing woods and route to objective. Several hundred prisoners were taken. Battalion became engaged in heavy fire fight consisting of small arms and automatic weapons in woods vicinity (246168). Towns of Wintersbach, Engelberg, Hohengehre, Baltmannswer, Reichenbach and Plochingen were taken during advance. The Battalion established contact with elements of the 3rd Battalion on River and reconnoitered crossings of the Neckar River within zone. Tanks and Infantry patrolled the supply route. Numerous road blocks and abatis were encountered during period.

OPERATIONS SUMMARY 397TH INFANTRY REGIMENT (Continued)

2nd Bn: Continued to check and clear towns in Regimental area in rear of 1st and 3rd Battalions. The Battalion crossed the Neckar River in the vicinity of Heppach, and cleared Schnzit, Aichelberg, Schanbach, Krummhardt and Aichschloss. Motorized patrols were dispatched to clear and check Regimental Road net. Several hundred prisoners of war were taken.

3rd Bn: Continued advance to S clearing woods and route to objective. Several hundred prisoners of war were taken during period. The Battalion cleared the towns of Buetelsbach, Schorbuhl, Manolzweiler, Altbach, and Zell. Crossings of Neckar River were reconnoitered within same. Elements of the Battalion worked through woods N of objective and cleared roads and trails.

WEATHER: Cloudy – rain. Visibility poor.

PRISONERS: 1377 (to date 6501)

REINFORCEMENTS: EM 95

CASUALTIES: EM – 3 MIA; 1 SWA; 2 LWA.

APRIL 23

1st Bn: Patrolled north banks of the Neckar River. Moved in convoy to Heningen, arriving at 1115 having left at 0800 by a change in orders Battalion moved into Plotcheingen to await further orders.

2nd Bn: Advanced to the S from Aichschloss and Schanbach, crossing Neckar River and seized bridge at Altbach and cleared Deizisan where they were billeted for the night.

3rd Bn: Patrolled north banks of Neckar River and held positions in Altbach. The Battalion patrol saw 13 men presumably of the Wehrmacht or Volksturn and some civilians in the vicinity of (R203165).

WEATHER: Cloudy – rain. Visibility poor.

PRISONERS: 155 (To date 6656)

REINFORCEMENTS: None

CASUALTIES: None

OPERATIONS SUMMARY 397TH INFANTRY REGIMENT (Continued)

APRIL 24

1st Battalion: Remained in billets in Platchingen with no enemy action or contact reported. Patrolling continued on the north bank of the Neckar River.

2nd Bn: From its positions in Deizisan awaited further orders as it conducted into outlying towns of Unt Ensinggen, Zizishausen, Oberensingen, and Wolfschlugen which were declared clear of enemy.

3rd Bn: Awaiting further orders at Altbach as it patrolled the north bank of the Neckar River with no enemy contact reported.

WEATHER: Clear. Visibility fair.

PRISONERS: 17. (To date 6673)

REINFORCEMENTS: 1 newly commissioned officer

CASUALTIES: None.

APRIL 25

1st Bn: Continued in Plattchingen, patrolling the north banks of the Neckar River with no enemy contact reported. The troops consumed the day in the care and cleaning of equipment and in a training schedule and athletics.

2nd Bn: Had patrols reconnoiter routes and continued to patrol south of the Neckar River with no enemy contact reported as it awaited further orders. The troops consumed the day in training, care and cleaning of equipment, close order drill and in inspection of teeth.

3rd Bn: Remained in Altbach and patrolled the north bank of the Neckar River within its assigned zone. Two night patrols were sent out to keep the roads clear of the enemy

WEATHER: Clear. Visibility fair.

PRISONERS: 25 (To date 6698)

REINFORCEMENTS: None

CASUALTIES: EM – 1 LWA.

OPERATIONS SUMMARY 397TH INFANTRY REGIMENT (Continued)

APRIL 26

1st Bn: Continued patrolling north bank of Neckar River within assigned zone. No contact with the enemy was reported. The Battalion left the assembly area in the vicinity of Plochingen and moved by motor to assembly area in the vicinity of Stuttgart [Stuttgart].

2nd Bn: Continued to patrol south of Neckar River to objective. No contact with enemy was reported. The Battalion left the assembly in the vicinity of Diezsau, and moved by motor to assembly area at Stuttgart.

3rd Bn: Patrolled north bank of Neckar River within assigned zone. No contact with enemy reported. Left assembly area in the vicinity of Altbach and moved by motor to assembly area vicinity Stuttgart.

CANNON CO: Moved from assembly area vicinity of Plochingen to assembly area vicinity of Stuttgart [Stuttgart].

WEATHER: Cloudy. Visibility poor.

PRISONERS: None

REINFORCEMENTS: None

CASUALTIES: None

APRIL 27

1st Bn: Experienced no enemy action and followed training schedule throughout the period in addition to organizing and patrolling the Battalion's assigned area to the NE of Stuttgart.

2nd Bn: Furnished guards in its assigned area in the NE of Stuttgart. The companies manned road blocks, guarded bridges and buildings and carried on training and organized athletics. Thirty-seven (37) men and officers were awarded

OPERATIONS SUMMARY 397TH INFANTRY REGIMENT (Continued)

the Bronze Star by General Tychsen at a ceremony.

3rd Bn: Organized a patrol in its assigned area in the NE of Stuttgart while the troops adhered to a training program.

WEATHER: Cloudy – rain. Visibility poor.

PRISONERS: 12 (To date 6710)

REINFORCEMENTS: None

CASUALTIES: None

APRIL 28

All elements of the unit consumed the period in training and maintenance of equipment and vehicles. The 1st and 3rd Battalions organized and patrolled the assigned area to the SE of Stuttgart, while the 2nd Battalion did likewise in the S of Stuttgart. Scores of prisoners were taken during the period. Numbers of them were discharged patients from the hospital at Hohenheim.

WEATHER: Cloudy. Visibility poor.

PRISONERS: 78 (To date 6788)

REINFORCEMENTS: EM - 60

CASUALTIES: None

APRIL 29

The troops spent the period in the same assigned area as of the previous day, in patrolling the assigned areas and in training and maintenance of vehicles and equipment. There was no activity noted. There was some unit tactical training, orientation and recreation.

WEATHER: Cloudy, light rain. Visibility fair.

PRISONERS: 6 (To date 6794)

REINFORCEMENTS: None

CASUALTIES: None

OPERATIONS SUMMARY 397TH INFANTRY REGIMENT (Continued)

30 April

1st Bn: Organized and patrolled Stuttgart [Stuttgart] and assigned area to SE. Moved by motor to assembly area in the vicinity of Eislingen and established local security and conducted patrolling within assigned area.

2nd Bn: Organized and patrolled Stuttgart and assigned area to SE. Moved by motor to assembly area in the vicinity of Eislingen and established local security and conducted patrolling within assigned area.

3rd Bn: Organized and patrolled Stuttgart and assigned area to SE. Moved by motor to assembly area in the vicinity of Eislingen and established local security and conducted patrolling within the assigned area.

CANNON CO: In assembly area vicinity of Eislingen

ANTITANK CO: In assembly area vicinity Eislingen

WEATHER: Cloudy, light rain, snow. Visibility poor.

PRISONERS: None (To date 6794)

REINFORCEMENTS: None

CASUALTIES: None