

## OPERATIONS SUMMARY - 397TH INFANTRY REGIMENT

### DECEMBER - 1944

MAP REFERENCE: France 1/100,000

#### DECEMBER 1

1st Bn: Remained in position generally sending out local patrols all day and being subjected to artillery, mortar and 88mm fire. Platoons of D Co moved 500 yards. C Co troops advanced to secure road-blocks (335787). It by-passed a small road-block (792337) and knocked out an 88mm A-T gun after Co was held up by mortar fire.

2nd Bn: Was in old positions. E Co maintained road-blocks N & E of Weinberg. F Co remained in Weinberg, prepared to move into B Co's position when, as, and if the latter moved up. One E Co platoon kept strong point in Sparsbach one mile N.W. of Weinberg.

3rd Bn: Remained in position except that K Co left old position near Welterswiller for Ingwiller. Bn's objective of Hills 296 & 370 was stymied by reason of heavy mortar, S/A and A/W fire. The other three (3) companies remained at or near Ingwiller, defending the town and its approaches.

Cannon Co: fired 24 Rds at mortar positions.

374th FA: fired 168 HE Rds at 88mm mortars.

325th Engineers: Co A cleared roads from (757251-78430).

Casualties: 1 EM KIA, 6 EM MIA, 5 EM SWA, 13 EM LWA, 1 Off LWA.

Prisoners taken: 1 Grand total 434

Replacements: 1 Officer.

#### DECEMBER 2

1st Bn: Dug in defensively being reinforced by units of 2nd Bn. B Co left position at 1000, moved forward to position overlooking Wimmeneau, 1200 yards. It had mission to secure road-block (792331) while Engineers removed it.

## OPERATIONS SUMMARY 397TH INFANTRY REGIMENT (CONTINUED)

Enemy artillery made removal not possible until 1415. C Co withdrew from positions into B Co positions, travelling 2000 yards.

2nd Bn: E Co remained in position. F Co marched from Weinbourg one (1) mile N. E. to Hill 275 and dug in. G Co moved from dug in position to Weinbourg. H Co remained in billets in Weinbourg. One platoon was placed on security guard on road net entering town. Strong patrols were sent to Hill 275 encountering no resistance.

3rd Bn: Co's I and L struggled to take Hill 296, and with the aid of the 374th FA Bn moved forward, took hill and prepared defensive positions. K Co moved under cover of darkness to take L Co's old position. M Co moved with Bn to attack position held by enemy N. of town of Ingwiller. 1000 yards gained and heavy casualties sustained.

Cannon Co: Fired 295 HE Rds at enemy OP, A/W, rifle, interditive and protective fire targets.

374th FA: Fired 305 HE Rds at various types of targets.

325th Engineers, Co A: Removed mines and road-block (792331)

Casualties: 18 EM KIA, 12 EM SWA, 14 EM LWA, 1 Off SWA, 1 Off LWA.

Prisoners taken: 12. Grand total: 446

Replacements: 37 EM.

### DECEMBER 3

1st Bn: A Co withdrew 600 yards, B Co 1200 yards, C Co 200 yards, D Co 600 yards and dug into new defensive positions. Little, if any, enemy action encountered by Cos. Bn mission was to block Ingwiller-Wimmeneau pass. Cos sent out local patrols and located mine field (805326).

2nd Bn: Cos left positions at and around Weinbourg at 0330 for Ingwiller, then to Rothbach generally N. a distance of about 5 miles. Bn attacked to the NW

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## OPERATIONS SUMMARY 397TH INFANTRY REGIMENT (CONTINUED)

Co M moved with Bn and the objective was finally captured at 1600 in the face of intense S/A and artillery fire.

Cannon Co: In support of 1st Bn. It had forward observers with A, B, and C Cos. It fired 311 Rds of HE at mortar, machine gun, enemy personnel targets and Hill 370.

374th FA: Fired 368 Rds at different types of targets such as mortars, machine gun, troops and artillery positions.

325th Engineer Bn: Co A swept roads, removed mines, booby traps and constructed road.

47th Tank Bn: Co A tried road-block removal and was driven off by heavy fire. One platoon cleared road-blocks (790333) and advanced with 1st Bn.

Weather: Light rain, cloudy, cold.

Casualties: 10 EM KIA, 3 EM MIA, 2 EM DOW, 1 EM SWA, 61 EM LWA, 1 Off SWA,  
1 Off LWA.

Prisoners taken: 36. Grand total: 492

### DECEMBER 5

1st Bn: Cos took off at 0900 with B Co leading going across country where Schu and S mines were encountered and caused many casualties. When the roads were used, road-blocks were encountered. Tank support aided in Bn taking Wimmeneau at 1600, securing it at 1700.

2nd Bn: Pushed on toward Reipertswiller. Companies mounted tanks. E Co left dug in positions near Rothbach at 0800. At 1030 it reverted to Bn reserve and proceeded to Reipertswiller at 1700. There was little opposition other than road-blocks on S. and W. approaches to town. F Co left position 500 yards N. of Rothbach, travelling 3 ½ miles to town. G Co moved out at 0630 to positions 400 yards due east. Moved again at 0800 due NE 4 miles to Reipertswiller. The town was secured and occupied at 1800.

## OPERATIONS SUMMARY 397TH INFANTRY REGIMENT (CONTINUED)

3rd Bn: Remained in Regimental reserve in same position on forward slope of Hill 375 near Rothbach. Positions were reinforced and Co's were reorganized. Local patrolling to front throughout day with decoying mortar and machine gun fire.

Cannon Co: Fired 116 Rds of HE at enemy positions to cover front line advance. Damage to enemy unobserved.

325th Engineers: Co A cleared road-blocks (Q785341) affording two way traffic to Metz.

Weather: Cool and intermittent showers.

Casualties: 16 EM KIA, 2 EM DOW, 5 EM SWA, 26 EM LWA, 4 EM LIA.

Prisoners taken: 9. Grand total: 501.

Replacements: 2 EM

### DECEMBER 6

1st Bn: A Co left Wimmeneau at 1445 moving NE on a 4 mile foot march, encountering no enemy opposition enroute or in its occupation of Wildenguth at 1630. The other companies took a 6 mile foot jaunt to Melch, occupying it at 1630. They encountered no enemy.

2nd Bn: Left Reipertswiller moving NE in the direction of Mouterhouse for 3 miles, and then taking up defensive position about 800 yards from Mouterhouse. Co H took position on Hill 335 (79.2-50.8) set up 81mm and Heavy Machine Guns to support Bn in attack on Mouterhouse (79.5-60.5). Observed enemy movement caused Bn to cut off main roads leading to town.

3rd Bn: Remained in Regimental reserve, with Co's marching about 4 miles from Hill 375 to Lichtenberg by foot, encountered road-blocks and booby trapped roads.

AT Co: Cleared mines from Rothbach (848341) to Lichtenberg (818358).

## OPERATIONS SUMMARY 397TH INFANTRY REGIMENT (CONTINUED)

Cannon Co: Left gun positions at Ingwiller for Reipertswiller 10 miles. Forward observer with each battalion.

325th Engineers: Co A cleared roads of mines and debris.

Weather: Cool to cloudy.

Results of operation for the day were the capture of Wildenguth, Melch and Mouterhouse.

Casualties: None

Prisoners taken: 1. Grand total: 502.

### DECEMBER 7

1st Bn: moved to NW of Mouterhouse so as to block road running out of Mouterhouse to aid 2nd Bn in securing the town. A Co left Wildenguth, marching 5 miles to Melch. B Co left Melch, going two miles to point overlooking Mouterhouse. D Co did likewise.

2nd Bn: Jumped off at 0915 to take Mouterhouse (79.3-42.5) with E and G Co's in the lead, F Co in reserve, as H Co put mortar fire on town. At about 1000, E and G Cos began move into Mouterhouse and drew S/A fire and street fighting ensued. About half of town taken by darkness.

3rd Bn: All Co's moved from Lichtenberg by foot to Melch, travelling 4½ miles. They were held in Division reserve preparing to move to N in the direction of Mouterhouse.

Cannon Co: Moved to Milch [Melch]. Fired 106 rounds at personnel and probable mortars.

AT Co: Mine platoon swept road leading N out of Reipertswiller (9802372) - (9815425).

325th Engineers Bn Co A: Swept, removed debris and fixed roads.

Weather: Cool, cloudy and intermittent rain.

## OPERATIONS SUMMARY 397TH INFANTRY REGIMENT (CONTINUED)

Casualties: 6 EM KIA, 4 EM SWA, 19 EM LWA.

Prisoners taken: 2. Grand Total: 504.

### DECEMBER 8

1st Bn: Co's had mission to secure cross road near Mouterhouse (Q787434). A Co advanced N. to secure road junction half mile NW of Mouterhouse. C Co moved so as to block to the NE. The Bn movement was hindered by a stream which had to be crossed, and was further impeded by mortar and S/A fire.

2nd Bn: Mop up enemy resistance in Mouterhouse, by house to house fighting. Enemy continued to drop mortar fire on town throughout most of day. The companies kept up active patrolling N. of town. E Co captured three (3) prisoners while occupied in central section of Mouterhouse. G Co supported Bn in clearing town of snipers.

3rd Bn: All companies held same positions in Melch, remaining in Regimental reserve, and prepared to move N on orders.

Cannon Co: Fired 267 HE rds at enemy troops and emplacements in support of front line troops.

325th Engineers, Co A: Maintained road from Melch to road running W. from Mouterhouse. Removed road-block and swept road. Built by-pass around blown out culvert. (Q793426).

Casualties: 11 EM KIA, 7 EM SWA, 17 EM LWA, 1 EM LIA, 1 Off MIA.

Prisoners taken: 12. Grand total: 516.

Replacements: 45 EM.

### DECEMBER 9

1st Bn: Secured Mouterhouse and high ground N. of town. A Co secured road net at cross roads NW of town. B Co quartered on high ground inside town. C Co was 1½ miles E of town in constructed defensive positions.

## OPERATIONS SUMMARY 397TH INFANTRY REGIMENT (CONTINUED)

Our defensive positions and the town itself were shelled intermittently by enemy artillery and mortar producing light casualties.

2nd Bn: Jumped off at 0900 with E and F Co's in lead while G Co in reserve followed F on the right. F Co was in the draw between Hochenburg Hill and Hill 345. Bn headed N drew S/A fire. Reached first objective at 1320. E Co dug in at 1650 on W. of Hill 415: F Co on right NE of Hill 415, G Co in reserve.

3rd Bn: I Co left Melch by foot for Hill 287. K Co went 5500 yards to Mouterhouse, as did L Co, passing through 2nd Bn, encountering flak and S/A resistance. Company L contacted enemy at Hill 287. Co M moved to attack position held by enemy N of Mouterhouse.

Cannon Co: Fired 110 Rds of HE at enemy troops. The damage was unobserved. Fired at enemy positions and harassing fire in support of forward elements.

Weather: Cold, snow and rain.

Casualties: 4 EM KIA, 2 EM MIA, 1 EM DOW, 6 EM SWA, 16 EM LWA, 1 Off LWA.

Prisoners taken: 15. Grand total 529.

Replacements: 37 EM.

Battlefield Appointments: 2

### DECEMBER 10

1st Bn: A Co patrolled area near road junction outside Mouterhouse suffering artillery and mortar fire, but no casualties. B Co experienced very little action. All companies remained on edge of town, moving short distance forward sighting much enemy action.

2nd Bn: Jumped off at 1030 for Hill 364. E Co attacked from high ground N. of Mouterhouse, as did F Co. Leading elements of both Co's got to Hill 362 and proceeded to Hill 342.5. Bn was ordered to leave one platoon on Hill 415 and one on Hill 364, and continue advance to Hill 342.5. Bn dug in at 1530 after mission was accomplished.

## OPERATIONS SUMMARY 397TH INFANTRY REGIMENT (CONTINUED)

3rd Bn: Patrols sent out to contact 1st and 2nd Bns. K Co left position at 1000, advancing 3000 yards under enemy artillery fire. Occupied Hill 360 with light casualties. L Co resumed attack N. of Mouterhouse (5 miles distance). Bn advanced N. along axis Hill 321 to present position where they received flak and A/W fire from N.

Cannon Co: Fired 72 Rds of HE for interdiction, and 150 Rds at enemy troops in support of front line.

325th Engineer Bn, Co A: Swept road for mines, cleared road-block, filled crater and maintained by-pass.

Weather: Cold, light rain.

Casualties: 3 EM SWA, 7 EM LWA, 1 EM SIA, 1 Off SWA.

Prisoners taken: 23. Grand total: 552.

### DECEMBER 11

1st Bn: A Co was relieved of patrolling mission by A-T, moved into Mouterhouse and took up positions E. of B Co. B Co extended defensive position N. of Mouterhouse. C Co relieved of defensive position (9810428) by Troop B, 121st Rcn Sqd, and withdrew to Mouterhouse.

2nd Bn: Held same positions as yesterday. Heavy S/A fighting occurred before dawn. Strong active patrols SE to cover supply trail, then to Hill 415 and NE to Hill 364. Bn was shelled intermittently all day by mortar and artillery fire. Tanks were sent to block trails NE of Hill 364 and trails leading to objective. The tanks returned to Mouterhouse due to darkness. S/A fire, mortar and artillery reported on Hill 415. G and H Co's received many casualties before enemy was repulsed and driven off.

## OPERATIONS SUMMARY 397TH INFANTRY REGIMENT (CONTINUED)

3rd Bn: K Co left position at 0900 advancing 800 yards to occupy Hill 395. Drew sniper fire. Moved to new position and occupied hill. Mortar and artillery fire fell in onto Bn producing heavy casualties.

Cannon Co: Fired 60 Rds at interdiction targets, and 52 Rds at enemy observation post and personnel. Damage was unobserved. Fired at command of Forward observers at enemy emplacements and personnel.

A-T Co: Took up positions as rifle Co displacing A Co 1000 yards NW. of Mouterhouse.

Weather: Cold and intermittent rain.

Casualties: 7 EM KIA, 2 EM MIA, 3 EM SWA, 20 EM LWA, 3 Off LWA.

Prisoners taken: 8. Grand total: 560.

### DECEMBER 12

1st Bn: Continued to secure high ground N. of Mouterhouse. Bn jumped off at 0915, moving NW to road junction 1½ miles from Mouterhouse. Co's moved N. from road junction and at 1400 passed through 3rd Bn now dug in at (797472). Bn moved on to take up positions on Bn objective at 1540. Secured high ground SE of Bitché.

2nd Bn: Continued holding positions in the morning to protect right flank of Regimental zone, while 1st and 3rd Bns were maneuvering for the high ground to the N.

3rd Bn: Co's dug in defensive positions after taking Hill 430 (Q796468). Bn rid Hill 395 of the enemy as Bn achieved Division objective with little resistance. I Co remained in reserve on Hill 395.

Cannon Co: Fired 32 Rds at enemy personnel. Forward Observer unable to estimate enemy casualties.

Weather: Cool and light rain.

## OPERATIONS SUMMARY 397TH INFANTRY REGIMENT (CONTINUED)

Casualties: 2 EM KIA, 16 EM MIA, 4 EM SWA, 2 EM LWA.  
Prisoners taken: 9. Grand totals. 569.

### DECEMBER 13

1st Bn: Remained in holding position on high ground seized yesterday. Co's sent out strong patrols to N. and NW. Received much mortar and artillery fire, and had small skirmish with enemy patrol during the morning.

2nd Bn: Improved position on ground seized yesterday, E Co sent foot patrols to N. G Co left dug in positions N. of Mouterhouse, returned to Mouterhouse and were billeted in houses. H Co maintained holding positions 4000 yards N. of Mouterhouse. Entire Bn sector quiet. No enemy action.

3rd Bn: Co's holding same positions as yesterday near Mouterhouse, improving them by extending I Co astraddle the road (Q794464).

325th Engineers, Co A: Maintained road, removed five (5) Tropic mines, 50 yards abatis and completed culvert.

Weather: Cool and fair.

Casualties: 2 EM KIA, 6 EM SWA, 6 EM LWA, 1 EM SIA.

Prisoners taken: 2. Grand total: 571.

### DECEMBER 14

1st Bn: Held former position and met much artillery fire throughout day. Only action taken was to send some strong patrols into enemy territory not exceeding 500 yards. There were light casualties.

2nd Bn: E Co left defensive position 2½ miles N. of Mouterhouse at 1300, and went to Mouterhouse arriving at 1400, posting local security. F Co retained old position. G Co moved from Mouterhouse at 1100 and returned to dug in position in woods two (2) miles N. of Mouterhouse. H Co joined Bn in Division reserve at holding position 4000 yards N. of Mouterhouse.

## OPERATIONS SUMMARY 397TH INFANTRY REGIMENT (CONTINUED)

3rd Bn: Retained old positions. Sent out strong patrols to N. and NE. Contacted K Co 398th Infantry on the left.

Weather: Cool and fair.

Casualties: 1 EM MIA, 2 EM DOW, 1 EM LWA.

Prisoners taken: None. Grand total: 571.

### DECEMBER 15

1st Bn: Little enemy action except some enemy artillery received by A, C and D Co's. B Co tried to take Hill 388, but was pinned down by heavy artillery, mortar and flak fire in its position, preventing movement.

2nd Bn: E Co, left Mouterhouse, marching 2 ½ miles to position N. of Mouterhouse (occupied 9 Dec 44). Co relieved F Co on Hill 342. Encountered S/A and sniper fire. No casualties. F Co left position NE of Mouterhouse going N. four (4) miles and took up position SE of Bitche. G Co left position N. of Mouterhouse and went further N. for four (4) miles. Bn relieved from Division reserve.

3rd Bn: Reverted to Division reserve at 1030 holding same positions. K Co on Hill 430. Some enemy artillery and mortar experienced.

A-T Co: Took up positions as rifle Co N. of Mouterhouse (Q803477), relieving B Co at 1500.

Cannon Co: Fired 198 Rds of HE at targets such as enemy personnel, probable mortars, interdiction, harassing fire.

Weather: Cool and fair.

Casualties: 4 EM LWA.

Prisoners taken: None. Grand total: 571

Replacements: 131 EM

Battlefield appointments: 3

OPERATIONS SUMMARY 397TH INFANTRY REGIMENT (CONTINUED)

DECEMBER 16

1st Bn: Only change in companies' positions was when Co B moved 800 yards to continue attack on Hill 388. A&P Platoon attempted road-block 150 yards from C.P., but was driven off by accurate mortar fire from an apparently well concealed point of observation. Other companies sent out local patrols to the E. locating enemy positions along road N. of Stockbronn.

2nd Bn: Sent out local patrols during morning. E Co held positions 1500 yards SE of Bitche, subject to artillery, mortar and S/A fire all day. F Co platoon extended E Co line to the right. G Co followed up an artillery preparation at 1400 and secured Hill 355 at 1515. H Co holding positions and consolidating in preparation to attack Bitche.

3rd Bn: I Co held same position as yesterday near Mouterhouse. K Co extended lines to take over L Co sector. M Co remained in same spot in Division reserve. Very little enemy activity.

Cannon Co: Fired 226 Rds of HE at enemy pillboxes, mortars and personnel. Damage unobserved. Forward observer hit with enemy mortar.

A-T Co: Took up B Co's old positions at 0730.

Weather: Cool and clear.

Casualties: 5 EM KIA, 6 EM SWA, 8 EM LWA.

Prisoners taken: 9. Grand total: 580

Replacements: 1 Officer

DECEMBER 17

1st Bn: Participated in firing from old positions to attract attention of enemy while 398th, 399th moved in attempt to take Bitche. Vigorous patrolling to the N. and NE.

## OPERATIONS SUMMARY 397TH INFANTRY REGIMENT (CONTINUED)

2nd Bn: Remained in defensive position. E Co holding 1500 yards SE of Bitche, occupied since 15 December 1944. Local patrols to N. Patrols located bunkers and found them empty. G Co sent out patrols who found empty pillboxes. Mortar and artillery fire fell to flanks and rear wounding 3 EM. H Co held positions SE of Bitche. Co in support of Bn unable to move forward because of artillery and S/A fire.

3rd Bn: Held in Division reserve with I Co on Hill 436 near Mouterhouse, K Co relieved from defensive position on Hill 430 by L Co and returned to Mouterhouse, four (4) miles distant, for one (1) day rest.

Cannon Co: Left old gun positions at Vieller Fonderie at 0700 to Peter Philip (6 kilometers) firing 105 Rds HE at rolling barrage targets in support of forward elements, and 16 Rds for registration.

Weather: Cool and clear.

Casualties: 1 EM KIA, 3 EM MIA, 7 EM SWA.

Prisoners taken: None. Grand total: 580

### DECEMBER 18

1st Bn: Remained in same positions as yesterday, covering advance of 398th and 399th Infantry Regiments into Bitche, with covering fire. There was some enemy shelling with casualties light. Active patrols maintained to the N and NE.

2nd Bn: Generally remained in same positions as yesterday. E Co, 1500 yards SE of Bitche, sent out local foot patrols to N. of our position to outskirts of Bitche. No opposition encountered. F Co moved to (802940) to clear of the enemy. Completed mission and returned to old position. H Co received S/A and artillery fire from well dug in enemy positions and pill boxes.

3rd Bn: Remained in Division reserve.

## OPERATIONS SUMMARY 397TH INFANTRY REGIMENT (CONTINUED)

A-T: Remained in position N. of Mouterhouse.

Cannon Co: Fired 155 Rds on call from Forward Observer. Mission continued all day.

Targets were personnel, and harassing fire.

Weather: Cool and cloudy.

Casualties: 1 EM MIA, 2 EM SWA, 5 EM LWA.

Prisoners taken: 3. Grand total: 583.

### DECEMBER 19

1st Bn: Withdrew to Regimental reserve. A Co withdrew from position at 1045, moving cross-country ½ mile to new position, receiving enemy artillery and mortar shells. B Co withdrew to Co I position. C Co pulled back to L Co position at 0900, marched to Mouterhouse at 1500.

2nd Bn: Maintained same positions. E Co held position 1500 yards SE of Bitche. F Co remained in position, as did G Co, as mortar and artillery fire fell to flanks and rear. G Co sent patrols to the N. causing enemy to withdraw. H Co held position SW of Bitche awaiting further orders.

3rd Bn: Relieved 1st Bn. I Co left Mouterhouse at 1000 to relieve B Co occupying position 1300. K Co swapped with C Co. Artillery and mortar fell on our Bn. Patrols were maintained to the N. and NE.

Cannon Co: Fired 172 Rds into vicinity of Camp De Bitche. In support of forward elements, missions were fired at enemy personnel in homes, pillboxes, at machine guns and mortars. Damage unobserved. Regimental C.P. shelled 1300 - 1410.

Weather: Cool and cloudy.

Casualties: 1 EM KIA, 2 EM SWA, 5 EM LWA.

Prisoners taken: None. Grand total: 583.

### DECEMBER 20

1st Bn: Remained in Division reserve. A Co left position at 1415 by foot

## OPERATIONS SUMMARY 397TH INFANTRY REGIMENT (CONTINUED)

and truck enroute to Mouterhouse, travelling 4 ½ miles. B Co remained in position. C Co left Mouterhouse at 1430, entrucked to exchange places with A Co. There was no enemy action.

2nd Bn: Maintained holding position as it continued to send to the N and NE strong patrols. Co E held at 1500 yards SE of Bitche, occupied since 15 December 1944. The other companies held positions S of Bitche.

3rd Bn: Continued to maintain patrols to the N and E with I Co holding same position near Mouterhouse, L and K Co's remaining in their positions, and M Co on Hill 335.6.

Cannon Co: Fired on call from Forward Observer. Co fired 321 Rds of HE at enemy pillboxes in general vicinity of Camp De Bitche and Personnel. The fire was unobserved.

Weather: Cool and cloudy.

Casualties: 1 EM MIA, 1 EM DOW, 3 EM SWA.

Prisoners taken: 3. Grand total: 586

### DECEMBER 21

1st Bn: Received mission to relieve 114th Infantry of the 44th Division. Bn moved at 1200 by track from positions near Mouterhouse to Petit Rederching (685510), a distance of 13 miles, closing in at 1457.

2nd Bn: Bn left positions in Mouterhouse to relieve 1st Bn of the 114th Infantry at 1645 by motor for Petit Rederching where troops detrucked and then marched to Kleinmuhl (70.1-52.7). Bn reverted to Regimental reserve.

3rd Bn: Left old positions in Mouterhouse at 1300 and went to Hottwiller to relieve the 3rd Bn of the 114th Infantry, closing in at 1430.

A-T Co: Was relieved by the 106th Cavalry (mechanized) at 0900. The Co moved to Petit Rederching relieving the A-T Co, 114th Infantry, completing relief at 1530.

## OPERATIONS SUMMARY 397TH INFANTRY REGIMENT (CONTINUED)

Weather: Cold and cloudy.

Casualties: None.

Prisoners taken: None. Grand total 586.

Replacements: 11 EM

Battlefield Appointments: 2

### DECEMBER 22

1st Bn: Consolidated and strengthened positions in area taken over from the 114th Infantry, and remained in defensive positions. There were no casualties despite constant shelling.

2nd Bn: Dug in defensive positions N and W of Kapellendorf (71.1-52.9). G Co remained in Kleinmuhl and dug in 500 yards from town.

3rd Bn: Consolidated and strengthened its positions in Hottwiller.

Cannon Co: Moved from old gun positions Peter Phillip, going 14 miles to Petit Rederching and setting up defensive positions there.

Weather: Cold and clear.

Casualties: 2 EM MIA.

Prisoners taken: None. Grand total: 586

Battlefield Appointments: 3.

### DECEMBER 23

1st Bn: Remained in defensive position and designated as Division reserve in vicinity of Geising, maintaining liaison with the 100th Infantry Division Hq. The Bn prepared defensive positions for two (2) Bns on the MLR, priority to left half of MLR.

2nd Bn: In defensive position at Kleinmuhl until 1600. Then Bn departed to Guiderkirch by foot for 4½ miles, arriving 1800. Bn relieved Co's I and L of 345th Infantry and the 87th Reconnaissance. F Co held defensive position on N side of Kappellenhoff.

## OPERATIONS SUMMARY 397TH INFANTRY REGIMENT (CONTINUED)

3rd Bn: Maintained defensive positions. However, was relieved by 2nd Bn of 398th Infantry, and assembled at Maierhoff (683693).

Cannon Co: In defensive position fired 60 Rds of HE at personnel and pillboxes.

Weather: Cold and clear.

Casualties: 1 EM LWA.

Prisoners taken: 2. Grand total: 588.

Replacements: 47 EM.

### DECEMBER 24

1st Bn: Let up defensive positions on the MLR near Rothbach. Move made at night leaving old positions at 1600 closing in on MLR at 2300. No enemy action.

2nd Bn: Bn in defensive position, dug in E and F companies on OPL. E Co improved defensive position NW of Erching. F Co left position in Kappellenhoff at 1600 and hiked four (4) miles to Erching, arriving at 1800. Troops put out in defense positions N of Erching.

3rd Bn: Relieved by elements of 398th Infantry vicinity Hottviller [Hottwiller] (728534) and assembled at Maierhoff (683693). Bn moved to Reimling (653653) and prepared defence positions. I Co moved from Petit Radasheim at 0800 to Betailler five (5) miles by foot, arriving at 1030. K Co moved at 0915 from Maierhoff by road-march to Reimling, arriving at 1205.

Cannon Co: Registration firing only.

A-T Co: Platoon took position at Ginsing; 2nd Platoon NW of Reimling; 3rd Platoon E of Reimling; rest of Co moved to Reimling. Co coordinated in A-T defense of Regimental zone.

Weather: Cold and clear.

Prisoners taken: 1. Grand total: 589

Casualties None

## OPERATIONS SUMMARY 397TH INFANTRY REGIMENT (CONTINUED)

### DECEMBER 25

1st Bn: Moved to assembly area in the vicinity of Guising, closing in at midnight, after being relieved by elements of the 398th Infantry. No incident accompanied the change.

2nd Bn: Remained on Outpost Line until 1600. Enemy attacked and Bn withdrew from Outpost Line through Main Line of Resistance, arriving at Guising at 1830, a distance of 3½ miles. E Co left position N. of Erching, and withdrew to Guising, taking positions NE of the town. F Co remained in position N of Erching. G Co left Giederkirch at 1655, heading SE, arriving at Petit-Rederching at a distance of four (4) miles.

3rd Bn: Improved and maintained defense position. I Co held same position near Bettviller, as did K Co at Rimling. Patrol action by the companies constituted the only activity.

Cannon Co: Remained in defensive position. Very little contact with the enemy. Co fired 45 Rds of HE of harassing fire.

Weather: Cold and clear.

Casualties: 1 EM MIA, 1 EM LWA, 1 Off MIA.

Prisoners taken: None. Grand total: 589.

### DECEMBER 26

1st Bn: Shifted its defensive positions to cover area from Petit-Rederching to Bettviller. The enemy counter-attacked in some sectors, and peppered Bn forward elements with some artillery, causing it to suffer light casualties.

2nd Bn: Held in Regimental reserve in defensive position. E, F, and part of H Companies were dug in in Petit-Rederching.

3rd Bn: Improved and adjusted defensive position. Bn was supported by the 23rd Tank Bn, Co A, three (3) platoons which pursued the attacking enemy of one hundred (100) men.

## OPERATIONS SUMMARY 397TH INFANTRY REGIMENT (CONTINUED)

The enemy attacked from woods (673562). The Bn covering fire forced the enemy to withdraw.

Cannon Co: Fired 144 missions of HE at enemy troops, for registration and as harassing fire.

Weather: Cold and clear.

Casualties: 6 EM, 1 EM SWA, 2 EM LWA.

Prisoners taken: 1. Grand total: 590.

### DECEMBER 27

1st Bn: Remained in defensive position with no enemy contact or action.

2nd Bn: Remained in Regimental reserve. E Co improved its defensive position of 26 December N. of Petit-Rederching. F Co improved its position N. of Guising. G Co remained in defensive position on outskirts of Guising.

3rd Bn: Held its same defensive position of 26 December near Bettviller. Only activity of day was patrolling.

Cannon Co: Fired 54 missions at registration, interdiction and mortar targets.

325th Engineers, Co A: Laid mine field in front of 3rd Bn personnel, and maintained roads and bridges in Regimental zone.

Weather: Cold and clear.

Casualties: 2 EM LWA.

Prisoners taken: 3. Grand total: 593.

### DECEMBER 28

1st Bn: Remained in defensive positions with slight changes for improvement and consolidation. Co A withdrew about 300 yards. There was no enemy activity.

2nd Bn: In Regimental reserve and continued inactive in Rohrbach (65.3-49.6). Armor attached to Bn as it strengthened defensive positions.

## OPERATIONS SUMMARY 397TH INFANTRY REGIMENT (CONTINUED)

E Co improved its position N and W of town of Petit-Rederching. F Co remained in improved positions in Guising. G Co prepared defensive positions on outskirts of Petit-Rederching.

3rd Bn: Its positions were protected by 700 mines laid in front of it by 325th Engineers Bn, Co A. I Co moved from Bettviller to position near Reimling, a distance of two (2) miles. K Co remained in defensive position near Reimling.

Cannon Co: Fired 139 missions at enemy mortar and personnel with damage unobserved.

Weather: Cold and clear.

Casualties: 1 EM LWA.

Prisoners taken: 2. Grand total: 595

### DECEMBER 29

1st Bn: Conducted active patrolling from same positions with slight enemy action. Elements of the 398th Infantry relieved elements of 1st Bn under cover of darkness.

2nd Bn: Remained in Regimental reserve. E Co continued to improve defensive positions taken up on 26 December. F Co remained in position N of Guising. H Co held position on Regimental reserve line.

3rd Bn: Continued holding position with I Co near Reimling, L Co in same relative position in Reimling, while K Co strengthened main line of resistance around sector of that town.

A-T Co: 2nd platoon moved to position vicinity Bettviller (672534). 4th platoon engaged in laying mines N of Reimling (654556).

Cannon Co: Fired 100 missions from same defensive positions at enemy vehicles, interdiction and harassing fire targets.

Weather: Cold and clear.

Casualties: 1 EM LWA.

Prisoners taken: None. Grand total: 595

## OPERATIONS SUMMARY 397TH INFANTRY REGIMENT (CONTINUED)

### DECEMBER 30

1st Bn: Continued same defensive positions with companies sending out patrols, capturing twenty-one (21) prisoners with no resulting casualties.

2nd Bn: Remained in Regimental reserve in dug in positions. E Co improved positions N and E of Rothbach. F Co held around Guising. G Co suffered from enemy strafing.

3rd Bn: K Co continued to hold positions around N sector of Reimling. M Co suffered enemy bombing and strafing.

Hq Co: Received a bombing attack by enemy planes, killing three (3) and injuring eight (8) enlisted men.

Cannon Co: Fired 46 missions of HE for registration and at enemy troops.

Weather: Clear and cold.

Prisoners taken: 24. Grand total: 619.

### DECEMBER 31

1st Bn: Remained in position with no enemy action. A and B Co's were in Bettviller. C Co sent out small reconnaissance patrols.

2nd Bn: Remained in Regimental reserve maintaining defensive positions. There was no enemy activity. E Co dug alternative defensive positions west of town. F Co held N of Guising and also dug supplementary positions SW of Guising. G Co improved its defensive positions.

3rd Bn: Occupied same defensive positions at or near Reimling. The companies conducted active patrolling to the N and NE during the day. There was no enemy activity. Co I reconnaissance patrol took two (2) German prisoners.

A-T Co: Defended Regimental zone. Mine platoon assisted Engineers in laying mine field.

325th Engineers Bn, Co A: Continued laying mines fields in front of MLR.

Weather: Clear, cold, light snow fall.

Prisoners: 2. Grand Total: 621.