

## OPERATIONS SUMMARY - 397TH INFANTRY REGIMENT

FEBRUARY 1945

MAP REFERENCE: France 1/50,000

FEBRUARY 1

1st Bn: Companies retained their defensive positions suffering light enemy artillery and mortar fire throughout the day.

2nd Bn: The Battalion remained on the defensive on the Regimental Reserve Line, with its elements improving and consolidating their positions. E Company sent out patrols and manned road blocks from its position in Holbach. F Company remained attached to the 3rd Battalion in the vicinity of Hottviller, experiencing no enemy activity. G Company encountered no enemy, and supervised the Engineers in the digging of defensive positions. H Company held positions on the Regimental Reserve Line in Holbach, digging supplementary and alternative positions with the help of the Engineers. The Company laid tactical and protective wire.

3rd Bn: Continued to defend along its present front line with its elements adjusting, consolidating and improving their positions. I Company held near Rapellenhoff [Kapellenhoff], sending forth patrols. K Company suffered enemy artillery and mortar fire.

CANNON CO: Fired forty (40) rounds of HE at interdiction targets.

ANTITANK CO: Its gun platoons defended the Regimental zone, and its mine platoon guarded the bridge at (615456).

325TH ENGR BN CO A: Maintained roads, guarded bridges and continued to make concertinas and deliver them to front line defenses.

WEATHER: Cool, rain. Visibility poor.

PRISONERS: None (To date 777)

REINFORCEMENTS: 7 EM

OPERATIONS SUMMARY 397TH INFANTRY REGIMENT (Continued)

CASUALTIES: EM - 1 SIA

FEBRUARY 2

1st Bn: Experienced no enemy activity in its defensive positions maintained as yesterday. B Company suffered light enemy artillery and mortar fire. D Company had no casualties although enemy artillery and mortar fire fell in its area.

2nd Bn: Retained its old positions on the Regimental Reserve Line, and consolidated them as light enemy artillery and mortar fire fell in the vicinity of Petite Rederching. The Battalion's A & P platoon, at night, laid barbed-wire in front of Battalion's positions. E Company sent out reconnaissance and combat patrols and manned road blocks. G Company observed occasional squadrons of friendly aircraft headed towards enemy lines. It remained in its old positions and continued supervising the Engineers in digging and maintaining them.

3rd Bn: Adhered to its same positions. I Company, from Kapplenhoff, sent out patrols to contact K and L Companies, which mission was accomplished. K Company received heavy concentrations of mortar and artillery fire in its positions. Its reconnaissance patrol failed to make contact with the enemy in the vicinity of Dollenbach. L Company received some light artillery and mortar fire.

CANNON CO: Fired sixty-one (61) rounds of HE at interdiction targets, and for registration.

ANTITANK CO: Gun platoons continued to defend the Regimental zone, and its mine platoon guarded the bridge at (615456).

WEATHER: Fairer and warmer. Visibility excellent.

PRISONERS: None (To date 777)

## OPERATIONS SUMMARY 397TH INFANTRY REGIMENT (Continued)

REINFORCEMENTS: None

CASUALTIES: None

### FEBRUARY 3

1st Bn: Continued to defend, adjusting, consolidating and improving its positions along previous front lines. A Company suffered shelling. B Company received enemy mortar and artillery fire throughout the day in its same positions, which now had mud about six (6) inches deep. D Company, by reason of comparative inactivity, were enabled to take showers and obtain clean clothes.

2nd Bn: The A & P platoon set up wire in front of the same positions. E Company took the opportunity, still at Holbach, to test-fire weapons and indulge in company training. F Company manned its defensive positions, suffering occasional mortar and artillery fire with some small arms and machine gun fire in its sector during the morning. G Company in defensive positions, continued operations with Engineers. There were no enemy encountered, but occasional rounds of artillery fall to the rear of the houses in which the company was billeted.

3rd Bn: Effected no appreciable change. K Company, from Hottviller, defended the large span of Division front line with enemy artillery and mortar fire falling on its positions occasioning slight damage. L Company received some artillery fire, and also picked up four (4) enemy deserters. M Company suffered one (1) gun to be knocked out and light wounds to three (3) enlisted man from enemy mortar shells.

CANNON CO: Fired thirty-nine (39) rounds of HE at interdiction targets and for registration.

ANTITANK CO: Continued in its mission as yesterday.

OPERATIONS SUMMARY 397TH INFANTRY REGIMENT (Continued)

WEATHER: Light rain, fog. Visibility very poor.

PRISONERS: 4 (To date 781)

REINFORCEMENTS: 4

CASUALTIES: EM - 1 LWA; 1 LIA.

FEBRUARY 4

1st Bn: Experienced no enemy action other than some patrol activity, occasional artillery barrages and some mortar fire in its old positions.

2nd Bn: Remained in position on the Regimental Reserve Line, continuing to improve and consolidate its positions. E Company, under cover of darkness, left Holbach, and became attached to the 3rd Battalion in the vicinity of Hottviller, thus relieving F Company. F Company assumed defensive positions and suffered occasional enemy mortar and artillery shelling. H Company dug in at Holbach on the Regimental Reserve Line.

3rd Bn: Held near Kapplenhoff. Four (4) enemy deserters were picked up in this sector. I Company dispatched a patrol to contact companies, which mission was accomplished. K Company, in Hottviller, suffered enemy mortar gun fire on its front line positions. Illumination in its sector was called for to expose possible enemy activity to the front, but it proved vain. L Company had some enemy artillery fire in Hottviller. M Company experienced enemy mortar and artillery falling near its positions in Holbach.

CANNON CO: Fired 105 rounds of HE for registration and targets of interdiction, enemy troops and probable mortar positions.

BATTERY A, 353D AAA SLT BN: Illuminated sector in front of 324th Infantry enabling it to break up enemy patrol with small arms and artillery fire.

WEATHER: Cool, light fog. Visibility poor.

PRISONERS: 4 (To date 785)

## OPERATIONS SUMMARY 397TH INFANTRY REGIMENT (Continued)

REINFORCEMENTS: None

CASUALTIES: None

### FEBRUARY 5

1st Bn: Picked up a prisoner in its sector, and suffered light artillery. All of its elements remained in position experiencing occasional barrages with no resultant casualties.

2nd Bn: Continued in a defensive position on the Regimental Reserve Line, manning road blocks and also pill-boxes on the Maginot Line, and sent out night patrols. E Company, still attached to the 3rd Battalion, held E and SE of Hottviller, suffered light artillery fire. F Company, having left Hottviller, rested, cleaned its equipment in Holbach.

3rd Bn: No appreciable change in position and continued to defend along its present front lines. I Company, at Kapplenhoff, sent out patrols and successfully contacted companies. K Company dispatched combat patrol in the vicinity of Hollenbach, and suffered enemy artillery and mortar fire. M Company had very little enemy activity in its old positions.

CANNON CO: Fired 58 rounds of HE at targets of interdiction, enemy OP and for registration. Its effectiveness is unknown.

ANTITANK CO: Had its gun platoons defend the Regimental zone, while its mine platoon guarded an assigned bridge.

WEATHER: Cool, light fog and rain. Visibility poor.

PRISONERS: 1 (To date 786)

REINFORCEMENTS: 10 EM, 1 newly commissioned officer.

CASUALTIES: EM - 1 LIA.

### FEBRUARY 6

1st Bn: Adjusted, consolidated and improved all their company positions

## OPERATIONS SUMMARY 397TH INFANTRY REGIMENT (Continued)

with light artillery barrages falling throughout the day. Two (2) enemy deserters were picked up. Active patrolling, though planned, had to be abandoned because of extreme darkness.

2nd Bn: Continued in its positions along its present front line in the defense of the Regimental defense line. The elements manned the Maginot Line pill-boxes. The A & P platoon continued stringing wire in front of Battalion positions during the hours of darkness. The comparative lull enabled some of its troops to obtain showers, clean clothing and to train generally in the use of individual weapons.

3rd Bn: Too had comparative quiet. I Company sent out patrol from Kapplenhoff to contact K Company. K Company at about 0400 suffered heavy enemy artillery and mortar fire in the vicinity of Hottviller. An enemy patrol then attempted to infiltrate company lines under the protective cover of its artillery and mortar fire. The patrol was withdrawn at 0600. M Company, in Holbach, experienced little enemy activity.

CANNON CO: Fired 157 rounds of HE at targets of interdiction, mortar positions, enemy troops, enemy OP, for registration and E.B. 14.

WEATHER: Cool. Visibility poor.

PRISONERS: 2 (To date 788)

REINFORCEMENTS: None

CASUALTIES: None

### FEBRUARY 7

1st Bn: Remained in Regimental reserve. A Company was shelled in its position. B Company had some slight enemy patrol action in front of its positions. C Company had occasional enemy artillery barrages in its old defensive positions in Urbach. D Company had little enemy activity.

## OPERATIONS SUMMARY 397TH INFANTRY REGIMENT (Continued)

2nd Bn: Manned pill-boxes, remained on the Regimental Reserve Line. E Company continued to hold defensive positions in Hottviller, attached to the 3rd Battalion, and was subjected to mortar, sniper and burp gun fire. F Company took this period to train its troops in the use of individual weapons. G Company supervised the Engineers in the digging of advantageous reserve positions. H Company held on the Regimental Reserve Line, experiencing no action.

3rd Bn: Continued to defend along its present front lines. I Company sent patrols which successfully contacted K Company. K Company suffered mortar and artillery fire to fall in on its positions. Its snipers accounted for two (2) enemy dead. M Company had comparatively small enemy activity.

CANNON CO: Fired 75 rounds of HE for registration and at interdiction targets.

ANTITANK CO: Continued its mission of defending the Regimental zone in sweeping the roads for mines.

325TH ENGRS: Guarded road block, installed culvert, swept roads and maintained them in the Regimental sector.

WEATHER: Cool, light rain. Visibility poor.

REINFORCEMENTS: None

PRISONERS: None. (To date 788)

CASUALTIES: EM - 1 SWA; 2 LWA.

### FEBRUARY 8

1st Bn: Adjusted, consolidated and improved their positions suffering occasional artillery barrages, some patrol activity with no resultant casualties. One (1) enemy deserter was taken.

2nd Bn: Shared an estimated 200 rounds of enemy 80 and 50 mm mortar fire in its sector, E Company, still attached to the 3rd Battalion, in the vicinity of Hottviller, suffered one (1) casualty as a result of considerable

## OPERATIONS SUMMARY 397TH INFANTRY REGIMENT (Continued)

of considerable enemy mortar and artillery fire. F Company, from Holbach, manned road blocks and continued training its personnel in the use of individual weapons, squad and platoon formations and physical conditioning. G Company still engaged in supervising Engineers in digging reserve positions.

3rd Bn: Suffered, along with the 2nd Bn, in its sectors, considerable enemy fire. I Company sent patrols to contact Companies K and L. It received an alert order to move from its defensive positions in Kapplenhoff. K Company in Hottviller sustained casualties of one (1) from an enemy sniper, and it also experienced heavy mortar fire. L Company, too, sustained mortar shelling. M Company remained in defensive positions in Holbach with enemy mortar and artillery fire falling in on them.

CANNON CO: Fired 79 rounds of HE for registration and at enemy troops and interdiction targets.

WEATHER: Cool. Visibility fair.

PRISONERS: 1 (To date 789)

REINFORCEMENTS: 1 EM

CASUALTIES: EM - 1 SWA; 2 LWA.

### FEBRUARY 9

1st Bn: Had practically no enemy activity, and the period was consumed in some light diversion.

2nd Bn: Improved and consolidated its positions on the Regimental Reserve Line. E Company moved out from Hottviller under cover of darkness, being relieved by G Company. F Company manned road blocks and continued training in use of individual weapons. G Company began the relief of E Company at Hottviller at 1700, and completed it at 1900. Occasional rounds of heavy enemy artillery fell to its rear. H Company repaired and replaced weapons and put some German

## OPERATIONS SUMMARY 397TH INFANTRY REGIMENT (Continued)

mortar ammunition through a test.

3rd Bn: Received light mortar fire and took one (1) enemy deserter. I Company left Kappenhoff at 0930 relieving K Company on hill N of Hottviller. K Company completed its move at 1300 by foot and is now on the secondary defense line. L Company continued in its defensive positions where it received heavy mortar shelling. M Company experienced small enemy activity.

CANNON CO: Fired 59 rounds of HE at enemy troops, for registration and interdiction targets,

ANTITANK CO: Removed glass mines from shoulder of road at vicinity of Fromuhl.

325TH ENGRS CO A: Removed forty-two (42) Topf mines from shoulder of road Petit Rederching to Fromuhl. Assisted in the construction of air field.

WEATHER: Fair, intermittent rain. Visibility poor.

PRISONERS: 1 (To date 790)

REINFORCEMENTS: 40 EM

CASUALTIES: EM - 2 SWA; 1 LWA.

### FEBRUARY 10

1st Bn: Remained more or less stationary along its present front lines with little or no enemy activity, some slight enemy artillery and mortar fire with no resultant casualties.

2nd Bn: Manned pill-boxes in the defense on the Regimental Reserve Line. E Company, at Holbach, rested and reorganized. G Company suffered enemy mortar fire during the day on its right platoon in Hottviller. Friendly artillery barrages were heard to the front falling on possible enemy gun positions.

## OPERATIONS SUMMARY 397TH INFANTRY REGIMENT (Continued)

3rd Bn: Continued to defend along its present front lines with K Company at Hottviller sending contacting patrols to I and L Companies. M Company encountering sniper fire in Holbach with no resultant casualties.

CANNON CO: Fired 104 rounds of HE for registration, interdiction and at enemy troops and mortar positions.

WEATHER: Intermittent rain. Visibility poor.

PRISONERS: None (To date 790)

REINFORCEMENTS: 9 EM

CASUALTIES: None.

### FEBRUARY 11

1st Bn: Continued to consolidate, adjust and improve its positions defending along its present front lines and experiencing little enemy activity in the nature of small enemy patrols.

2nd Bn: Remained in defensive positions on the Regimental Reserve Line. E Company manned road blocks and dispatched patrols while reorganizing and taking advantage of the comparative quiet by resting. F Company duplicated the period as E Company. G Company remained attached to the 3rd Battalion and suffered occasional enemy mortar fire on its positions in Holbach.

3rd Bn: Along the same lines as the other two Battalions remained static in its old positions with some slight enemy activity, and dispatched patrols from K Company to I and L Companies.

CANNON CO: Fired 45 rounds of HE at targets of interdiction.

ANTITANK CO: Continued to defend the Regimental Zone, and swept trails.

325TH ENGRS, CO A: Continued its assistance in the construction of an air field, maintained culvert and continued guard on assigned road blocks.

WEATHER: Intermittent rain. Visibility fair.

OPERATIONS SUMMARY 397TH INFANTRY REGIMENT (Continued)

PRISONERS: 1 (To date 791)

REINFORCEMENTS: None

CASUALTIES: None

FEBRUARY 12

1st Bn: Experienced about 30 rounds of 80 mm mortar fire on its positions throughout the period. A Company switched its positions with C Company relieving the latter without incident at 1845. B Company noted small enemy patrols active throughout the night, D Company suffered no casualties despite some enemy mortar and artillery, and took the occasion for showering and exchanging clothing.

2nd Bn: Established listening post in the vicinity (745537). Battalion A & P platoon continued working stringing wire in front of its positions. E Company, still at Holbach, manned road blocks at the Battalion CP, and dispatched patrols. F Company improved its defensive positions and continued to train personnel in the use of individual weapons and physical training for conditioning purposes. G Company received automatic weapon fire from the vicinity (740538), and Hottviller Farm vicinity (741528). H Company repaired roads leading to its positions in Holbach.

3rd Bn: Learned from its patrol to (723557) that there were enemy Schu mine trip wires and three-strand wire along the stream at said location. I Company sustained one casualty through the enemy shelling its position on the hill near Hottviller. K Company was relieved of its patrolling activities by the Battalion I & R platoon, and remained in Hottviller. M Company, in Holbach, experienced very slight enemy activity.

WEATHER: Rain. Visibility poor.

PRISONERS: None (To date 791)

OPERATIONS SUMMARY 397TH INFANTRY REGIMENT (Continued)

REINFORCEMENTS: None

CASUALTIES: EM - 1 SWA; 1 LWA.

FEBRUARY 13

1st Bn: Sent patrol through Urbach to the draw in the vicinity of (700560) to locate possible mortar position, and patrol continued N. 300 yards in search of wire. In both instances negative reports were rendered when the patrol returned at 2000. Companies experienced some slight enemy action with no resultant casualties.

2nd Bn: Still on the Regimental Reserve Line. E Company, in Holbach, rested and reorganized, continuing its routine of dispatching patrols, manning road block and getting up work details. F Company manned road blocks, patrolled and trained its personnel in the use of individual weapons. G Company, in its defensive positions in Hottviller, received some enemy artillery, while friendly artillery returned the fire on enemy positions.

3rd Bn: Suffered mortar fire of about 9 rounds 50 mm and 9 rounds 80 mm. I Company held same positions in Hottviller on hill N. of the town. L Company received heavy artillery fire in Hottviller. M Company experienced very little enemy activity from its defensive positions in Holbach.

CANNON CO: Fired 50 rounds of HE at mortar positions and at interdiction targets.

ANTITANK CO: Defended the Regimental zone, maintained road blocks and swept trail.

WEATHER: Cool. Visibility fair.

PRISONERS: None (To date 791)

REINFORCEMENTS: One (1) Newly Commissioned Officer.

CASUALTIES: EM - 1 DOW; 1 LIA.

OPERATIONS SUMMARY 397TH INFANTRY REGIMENT (Continued)

FEBRUARY 14

1st Bn: Other than small enemy patrol action and receiving slight enemy mortar and artillery fire with no resultant casualties, the elements of the 1st Battalion remained in status quo as of the previous day.

2nd Bn: Set up listening post vicinity (741532) sporadic machine gun fire being observed from (745537). E Company sent out patrols, manned road blocks, reorganized and consumed the remainder of the time in resting. F Company relieved G Company under cover of darkness in Hottviller. G Company, upon its relief, was billeted and rested generally. H Company, in its position on the Regimental Reserve Line, used the comparative lull in the pursuit of instruction on subjects such as mortar 81 mm and chemical warfare.

3rd Bn: Dispatched patrol to (735441) and it marked the route through booby traps for subsequent activity. Elements of 254th Infantry moved into the vicinity. Companies remained comparatively static, suffering some enemy artillery fire.

325TH ENGRS, CO A: Maintained culvert (716530) and continued guard on assigned road blocks.

WEATHER: Cool. Visibility good.

PRISONERS: None (To date 791)

REINFORCEMENTS: EM - 2

CASUALTIES: None

FEBRUARY 15

1st Bn: Committed a patrol to raid positions S of Weisskerchin. The patrol, by reason of a swollen stream, could not reach the objective, but brought small arms and automatic weapon fire on the objective and also fired on several burp gun positions with no enemy fire returned. The Battalion

## OPERATIONS SUMMARY 397TH INFANTRY REGIMENT (Continued)

elements suffered about 96 rounds of 105 mm and 36 rounds of 88 mm falling into its sector.

2nd Bn: Sent patrol to cross-roads (740530) and found same clear of the enemy. E Company repeated its performances of recent days by sending out patrols and manning road blocks. F Company took over positions from G Company in Hottviller without incident. G Company was relieved and remained in defensive positions.

3rd Bn: Sent out combat diversionary patrol to (735541) killing five (5) man enemy patrol, and threw in grenades on the nearby enemy occupied positions. Other than some slight small arms fire, there was no enemy activity throughout the period.

CANNON CO: Fired 40 rounds of HE at enemy troops, mortar positions, enemy OP and at interdiction targets.

WEATHER: Cool. Visibility satisfactory.

PRISONERS: None (To date 791)

REINFORCEMENTS: EM - 38

CASUALTIES: EM - 1 MIA; 1 LWA.

### FEBRUARY 16

1st Bn: Learned through a patrol that there were twenty (20) to thirty (30) enemy digging in at road junction from (688584) to (712565). Some air support was furnished the Battalion. Throughout the period it was quiet and one (1) casualty was suffered by B Company.

2nd Bn: Conducted active patrolling with one patrol pinned down at (740525) by machine gun and rifle fire from woods (741525). E Company remained in Holbach and manned road blocks. F Company remained attached to the 3rd Battalion in Hottviller, suffering occasional shelling. G Company was in Holbach,

## OPERATIONS SUMMARY 397TH INFANTRY REGIMENT (Continued)

encountered no enemy. The supporting artillery units to its left rear were very active. H Company, in Holbach, utilized the period for instructions to reinforcements, and to test-fire weapons.

3rd Bn: Was engaged almost solely in consolidating, adjusting and improving its positions along its front lines with all the elements receiving light artillery and mortar fire.

CANNON CO: Fired 128 rounds of HE at targets such as vehicles, troops, interdiction and cross-roads.

325TH ENGRS, CO A: Cleared gap in friendly mine field (689549) and maintained roads in Regimental zone and continued guard of assigned road blocks.

WEATHER: Cool. Visibility very satisfactory.

PRISONERS: None (To date 791)

REINFORCEMENTS: None

CASUALTIES: EM - 1 SWA; 2 LWA.

### FEBRUARY 17

1st Bn: Conducted active patrolling. One at (713564) saw unoccupied fox-holes on both sides of road apparently connecting positions on high ground to the E and W. These positions showed recent use because of the evident fresh straw, and items of equipment. The patrol withdrew because of small arms, burp gun fire from the high ground S of Weisskerch. The companies received enemy mortar and artillery fire with no casualties.

2nd Bn: Remained in defense on Regimental Reserve Line. E Company sent out patrols and guarded road blocks, continuing in its positions in Holbach. F Company remained attached to the 3rd Battalion in Hottviller performing usual routine, patrolling, manning pill boxes. G Company received enemy artillery

## OPERATIONS SUMMARY 397TH INFANTRY REGIMENT (Continued)

on its front but encountered no enemy. H Company, in its same defensive positions, paused to attend orientation movie instruction.

3rd Bn: Conducted active patrolling in addition to its usual routine of consolidating, adjusting and improving its front lines. One raiding party to Dollenbach found enemy occupying (720560) and (721559) covering approach to draw with positions occupied on the high ground to E and W on the N edge of the draw. There was very scant enemy activity throughout entire battalion sector.

CANNON CO: Fired 145 rounds of HE at mortar positions, TOT and interdiction targets, assisting thus in throwing back the enemy counterattack.

325TH ENGRS, CO A: Continued guard on the road blocks and maintained roads in Regimental zone.

WEATHER: Cool. Visibility poor.

PRISONERS: None (To date 791).

REINFORCEMENTS: EM - 47. 8 Newly commissioned officers.

CASUALTIES: EM - 1 LWA.

### FEBRUARY 18

1st Bn: Experienced light enemy artillery and mortar fire with no casualties or any other enemy action than an attempt of two (2) enemy deserters enter its front lines. They were fired upon before being identified as deserters with one (1) killed and the other wounded.

2nd Bn: In addition to its daily routine of adjusting its positions, conducted active patrolling and maintained road blocks. One (1) patrol found woods (742526) clear of the enemy and found no enemy on hill 388. The patrol set up a listening post near woods (742530) where four (4) to six (6) SP guns were reported.

## OPERATIONS SUMMARY 397TH INFANTRY REGIMENT (Continued)

3d Bn: Established showers for the men and took advantage of the almost total lull in activity. Conducted active patrolling, establishing a listening post which heard tanks move occasionally in the vicinity of Weisskerchin.

CANNON CO: Fired 81 rounds of HE at enemy personnel and harassing targets.

WEATHER: Rain. Visibility poor.

PRISONERS: 1 (To date 792)

REINFORCEMENTS: None. 2 Newly commissioned officers.

CASUALTIES: None.

### FEBRUARY 19

1st Bn: Remained in status quo except for its usual routine of adjusting, consolidating and improving its positions, experiencing no enemy action other than light artillery and mortar fire.

2nd Bn: Still remaining in defense on the Regimental Reserve Line, conducted active patrolling. Set up listening post (740527) for thirty (30) minutes and heard machine gun fire at about two or three thousand yards to the N and then moved E to (745527) where light vehicles to the N were heard. Patrol moved to draw (747534) and heard ten to twelve enemy walking around, laughing and talking and heard a sentry challenge. It moved and investigated (742530) but found no fresh tracks nor SP guns.

3rd Bn: There was no appreciable change from the usual routine of recent days with K Company preparing alternate positions, L Company, in Hottviller. Receiving mortar fire and M Company still in Holbach.

CANNON CO: Fired 94 rounds of HE at mortar positions and enemy troops and as harassing fire.

WEATHER: Fair. Visibility poor.

PRISONERS: None (To date 792)

OPERATIONS SUMMARY 397TH INFANTRY REGIMENT (Continued)

REINFORCEMENTS: None

CASUALTIES: None

FEBRUARY 20

1st Bn: Conducted active patrolling and reported that an estimated 20 -30 enemy were dug in across draw (710564) and that the enemy installed concertina wire across draw (715563) and that a horse drawn vehicle approached enemy positions (710564). Still another patrol sent to (698564) and worked E along south slope of hill. Three (3) times it drew small arms fire when it tried to move up on the crest. Two (2) enemy deserters were picked up in the 1st Bn sector.

2nd Bn: Continued in defense on the Regimental Reserve Line and dispatched active patrols which brought the information that there was an enemy mortar at (747535), and an enemy machine gun (752527). E Company took over F Company positions under cover of darkness without incident and became attached to the 3rd Battalion in Hottviller.

3rd Bn: Assisted in its work of alternate positions. A listening post neither heard nor saw any enemy activity. There was some artillery fire but in the main, all was quiet along its front lines.

CANNON CO: Fired 137 rounds of HE at enemy troops.

ANTITANK CO: As usual, defended the Regimental Zone.

325TH ENGRS, CO A: Continued guard on assigned road blocks and maintained roads in Regimental Zone.

WEATHER: Intermittent rain and fog. Visibility poor.

PRISONERS: 2 (To date 794)

REINFORCEMENTS: None

CASUALTIES: EM - 3 SWA- 1 LWA.

OPERATIONS SUMMARY 397TH INFANTRY REGIMENT (Continued)

FEBRUARY 21

1st Bn: Suffered some artillery and mortar shelling and small enemy patrols were active in front of B Company positions, but there were no casualties and no changes of note in its positions. A patrol heard talking and movement in a house (714563) and enemy moving around positions on N side of draw running SE from the house. There were no mines or wire observed. All of enemy 88 mm fire and the bulk of 105 mm fell in the 1st Battalion sector.

2nd Bn: Did not have much change and consumed the period in additional training and conducting active patrolling. Patrol heard mortar (750530). Battalion still in defensive positions on the Regimental Reserve Line.

3rd Bn: Established listening posts through its active patrols but it heard or saw no enemy activity. The companies repaired, improved and dug alternate positions suffering little enemy activity other than two (2) rounds of 105 mm falling near the Battalion OP.

CANNON CO: Fired 100 rounds of HE at enemy troops, artillery positions, harassing fire Epping - Urbach and Nousseviller. The forward observer noted enemy mine field explode due to these missions.

WEATHER: Clear and fair. Visibility fair.

PRISONERS: None (To date 794)

REINFORCEMENTS: None

CASUALTIES: None

FEBRUARY 22

1st Bn: Continued in its same positions with B Company suffering some artillery and mortar fire and small active enemy patrols, while D Company experienced some enemy activity in the form of light occasional mortar and artillery fire.

## OPERATIONS SUMMARY 397TH INFANTRY REGIMENT (Continued)

One patrol left (710552), moved N to (710556) where it heard a movement from where a machine gun had previously fired. It heard voices in the draw to the E.

2nd Bn: Conducted active patrolling, one of which heard some chopping in the woods (744528). E Company remained attached to the 3rd Battalion in Hottviller. F Company, from Holbach, manned road blocks, instructed in the care and cleaning of weapons, tactics and censorship. G Company continued in defense in Holbach. H Company, also in Holbach, conducted instructions in the use of different American and enemy weapons.

3rd Bn: Dispatched some active patrols who gained no information. The elements of the Battalion succeeded in capturing six (6) enemy.

CANNON CO: Fired 90 rounds of HE at Nousseviller, Dolenbach and harassing targets. The fire into these enemy occupied villages was unobserved.

WEATHER: Clear and fair. Visibility fair.

PRISONERS: 6 (To date 800)

REINFORCEMENTS: None. 6 Newly commissioned officers.

CASUALTIES: EM - 1 SIA.

### FEBRUARY 23

1st Bn: Received heavy 88 mm mortar fire in its positions. It had sent out a combat patrol which succeeded in knocking out a machine gun crew at (710565) and another at (708565) but inflicted casualties on the enemy to the extent of eight (8) with five (5) more as possible casualties. The patrol suffered three (3) men to be wounded. There was, otherwise, no activity but for some slight artillery fire with no casualties.

2nd Bn: Continued sending out active patrols, one being pinned down at (746526) by enemy machine gun fire from (75705238) and (74755250).

## OPERATIONS SUMMARY 397TH INFANTRY REGIMENT (Continued)

It picked up one deserter. The companies remained in comparatively the same positions and indulged in the usual routine as during the previous periods.

3rd Bn: Experienced no change or enemy activity. It continued to send out patrols. K Company, in Hottviller, prepared alternate positions. A sixteen (16) man combat patrol tried to penetrate into Dollenbach on two separate occasions at 0200 and 0400. The enemy was contacted before the objective was reached and the patrol engaged in a small arms fight. Light mortar fire was received in the 3rd Battalion sector during this period.

CANNON CO: fired 92 rounds of HE at Dollenbach, Nousseviller, field piece, enemy gun positions and for patrol cover.

WEATHER: Clear and fair. Visibility poor.

PRISONERS: 3 (To date 803)

REINFORCEMENTS: None

CASUALTIES: EM - 1 SWA; 3 LWA,

### FEBRUARY 24

1st Bn: Reported one deserter, A Company remained in same position as previously. B Company suffered enemy artillery throughout the day, but no shells fell on its position. C Company exchanged positions with B Company making the exchange by foot. D Company received enemy artillery with no resultant casualties.

2nd Bn: Conducted active patrolling. E Company was relieved by G Company at 1900 and marched to Holbach arriving at 2100. F Company manned road blocks, patrolled and trained in attack. G Company sighted enemy planes which dropped two (2) bombs slightly to the rear of the line and then headed toward enemy territory. H Company gave part of its troops a tank demonstration in Holbach.

## OPERATIONS SUMMARY 397TH INFANTRY REGIMENT (Continued)

3rd Bn: Suffered some light 105 mm artillery in its sector during the period. It established listening posts in the vicinity of (721554) and (734541) that reported no enemy activity observed or heard. The companies continued holding positions and repairing alternate ones.

CANNON CO: Fired 126 rounds of HE at TOT, harassing fire, four (4) persons in a dug-out and three (3) enemy personnel. All these missions fired at night into enemy occupied territory were unobserved.

WEATHER: Clear and fair. Visibility fair.

PRISONERS: 2 (To date 805)

REINFORCEMENTS: EM - 94

CASUALTIES: None

### FEBRUARY 25

1st Bn: Again was merely patrolling and adjusting old positions. B Company experienced small active enemy patrols throughout the night and early morning with one (1) deserter turning himself in. There was no other enemy activity experienced by the Battalion.

2nd Bn: Conducted active patrolling and continued to consolidate, adjust and improve its positions on the Regimental Reserve Line. E Company was relieved under cover of darkness by G Company. F Company manned road blocks, furnished work details and trained in the use of individual weapons. G Company sighted enemy 500 yards to the right front of its lines, captured one (1).

3rd Bn: Established listening posts and continued to defend along its present front lines, preparing alternate positions and experiencing very little enemy activity.

CANNON CO: Fired 95 rounds of HE at enemy troops, for interdiction and harassing fire.

OPERATIONS SUMMARY 397TH INFANTRY REGIMENT (Continued)

WEATHER: Clear and fair. Visibility fair.

PRISONERS: 2 (To date 807)

REINFORCEMENTS: None

CASUALTIES: None

FEBRUARY 26

1st Bn: There was some enemy patrol and slight shelling suffered by the Battalion. Enemy artillery, light caliber, was concentrated in A Company sector. A patrol to (699561) observed nor heard any enemy activity.

2nd Bn: Patrol reached (739541) and saw eight (8) man enemy patrol, two (2) of whom occupied positions at the cross-roads (740539) while the other six (6) occupied the pill-box (741541). Otherwise the Battalion continued to man road blocks and improve its defensive positions.

3rd Bn: Dispatched a patrol from K Company of twenty (20) enlisted men and one (1) officer and they encountered a machine gun at (722544) and (721544) covering draw, patrol withdrew, having engaged the enemy in a fire fight with casualties to the patrol of one (1) killed and one (1) injured.

CANNON CO: Fired 138 rounds of HE at enemy personnel, harassing targets and TOT.

WEATHER: Moderate, misty. Visibility poor.

PRISONERS: None (to date 807)

REINFORCEMENTS: None

CASUALTIES: None

FEBRUARY 27

1st Bn: Encountered slight enemy activity in the form of occasional artillery and mortar fire with some light casualties. A patrol reached (712562)

## OPERATIONS SUMMARY 397TH INFANTRY REGIMENT (Continued)

but heard and saw no enemy activity.

2nd Bn: Experienced the usual daily routine of patrolling and manning road blocks and continuing on the Regimental Reserve Line. Its patrol reached (740539) and heard enemy voices to its right and left. For the most part its troops received additional training in various aspects of combat.

3rd Bn: Sent out patrols, one of which reached (723554) and heard enemy voices in the draw and considerable movement. Fifteen (15) rounds of 105 mm was received in its sector. It reported three (3) deserters. K Company exchanged positions with L Company by platoon with the last platoon completing the movement at 1500 for a 2000 yard distance travelled by foot.

CANNON CO: Fired 134 rounds of HE at TOT, harassing fire and for registration.

WEATHER: Moderately misty. Visibility poor.

PRISONERS: 5 (To date 812)

REINFORCEMENTS: None

CASUALTIES: None

### FEBRUARY 28

1st Bn: Continued its comparative inactivity and received slight artillery of estimated 105 mm and 75 mm in its sector.

2nd Bn: Conducted active patrolling, one of which saw four (4) enemy in the vicinity of (745526) hearing voices and movement in the draw. Found woods (742526) and (742530) and Hottviller Farm clear of the enemy.

3rd Bn: Continued to defend along its present front lines with the usual routine of adjusting, consolidating and improving its positions. It received moderate artillery in its sector and took one deserter.

CANNON CO: Fired 102 rounds of HE at enemy troops, kitchen truck, harassing

OPERATIONS SUMMARY 397TH INFANTRY REGIMENT (Continued)

fire and enemy personnel, TOT.

WEATHER: Clear. Visibility good.

PRISONER: 1 (To date 813)

REINFORCEMENTS: None

CASUALTIES: None