

1 Jan 1945

The 398th Infantry started the New Year with high spirits and the knowledge that it had met the enemy, taken whatever he could give, and were still able to go forward.

We have undergone two months of bitter, hard warfare. We are deeply saddened by the losses that we have sustained but we are resolved that they shall not be in vain. We realize that the fighting in the days to come will be severe and that in addition to the enemy, the cold, the rain, and the snow must be combated. However, each day and each step brings us closer to the heart of the enemy and we will go forward until it is pierced.

Lt Col Robert M Williams is Regimental Commander and Lt Col Floyd E Stayton is Regimental Executive Officer.

Weather: Clear and cold.

Visibility: Excellent.

Rg Hqs was located in Enchenberg and the Regiment was holding defensive positions along the line NW of Bitche. The Division continued present operations to maintain present positions. Regiments left to right were 255th Inf (-3rd Bn), 397th Inf, protecting the left (W) flank of the Division, the 398th Inf, which was prepared to assist the 399th Inf (plus 3rd Bn, 255th Inf) on the East in case of an enemy attack from vic Schorbach or Bitche.

All personnel were required to carry gas masks with protective ointment, eye ointment, eye shields, protective cover, and CWS reference card.

355 prisoners of war were processed thru the Regimental cage since 8 Nov 44.

SV CO: In Diemeringen.

AT CO: In Enchenberg.

CN CO: In Sierstahl.

MED DET: In Enchenberg.

1ST BN: CP at Petit Rederching and Bn continued to hold defensive line to NW from 6957-7157; it maintained contact with 397th Inf on the left and 2nd Bn 398th Inf on the right.

CO A in Urbach.

CO B in Hottviller.

CO C in Petit Rederching.

CO D in Petit Rederching.

2ND BN: CP at Holbach; Bn in defensive position and maintained contact with 399th on the right and with 1st Bn, 398th, on the left.

CO E in Hottviller.

CO F in Hottviller.

CO G in Hottviller

CO H in Holbach.

3RD BN: CP in Siersthal; Bn was in Regimental reserve.

CO I in Holbach.

CO K in Siersthal attached to 399th Inf.

CO L in Siersthal.

CO M in Siersthal.

1 Jan 1945

Supporting Units: 375th FA Bn, Co C 824th TD Bn, Co B 325th Engr Bn, Co B 325th Med Bn.

2 Jan 1945

Weather: Cold.

Visibility: Excellent.

The Regiment remained in position defending the N and NE. No enemy contact was made throughout the day. Rockets and artillery fell in the Regtl Sector. Patrols to the N revealed little enemy activity although there were enemy troops to the front as voices and coughing were heard, but exact points could not be located.

Cn Co: Moved to Petit Rederching.

2nd Bn: Several enemy shells fell in CP area (Holbach) but there were no casualties.

3rd Bn: In Regimental reserve. The Bn encountered heavy artillery, mortar, and rocket fire.

Co K, attached to 399th Inf, went into position vic 745-488, encountered small arms and artillery fire and suffered casualties.

3 Jan 1945

Weather: Snow, cold and cloudy.

Visibility: Poor.

The Regiment continued mission of holding present position and active patrolling to the immediate front. Trip flares and defensive wire were laid along the Regtl front.

1st Bn: There was no enemy contact but considerable enemy artillery and rocket fire fell in Bn area with two casualties suffered.

2nd Bn: Arty fell near CP, no casualties.

Co H encountered persistent sniper fire and Co G killed an enemy sniper.

3rd Bn: Still in Regtl reserve and encountering heavy artillery and mortar fire.

Co K was relieved by Co L, 399th Inf, and the company reverted back to Regtl control. Co M's C P was hit by two 210mm rockets which lightly wounded 4 Em none of which were hospitalized.

4 Jan 1945

Weather: Cold and snow.

Visibility: Fair.

The Regiment continued the mission of holding present positions. Patrols were sent out but no physical contact was made. Hv arty and rockets fell on Petit Rederching, Siersthal, and Lambach.

1st Bn: Co G was bombed and strafed by enemy aircraft.

2nd Bn: Co F repulsed a small enemy attack at 0300. About ten men were in the first attack and they were driven back by small arms fire. The enemy returned with about 20 men but withdrew under our arty fire.

3rd Bn: Still in Regtl reserve.

5 Jan 1945

Weather: Cold and cloudy.

Visibility: Good.

The Regiment continued mission of present position. Patrols were sent out to the immediate front.

AT Co: Subjected to hvy enemy bombardment with one EM being WIA.

3rd Bn: Moved by motor to town of Etting to relieve two bns of 255th Inf on a reserve line. All companies moved to vic Etting.

6 Jan 1945

Weather: Cloudy and cold.

Visibility: Fair.

The Regiment moved from vic Bitche to positions vic Achen. The movement was completed at 0800 and no enemy contact was made.

The Regiment was now on the left flank of the Division. The 44th Division was on our left and the 397th Inf was on our right. In our Regtl Sector the 1st Bn was on the left and the 3rd Bn was on the right. The 2nd Bn was attached to the 399th Inf and moved to vic Lambach.

Rg Hqs: Moved to Oermingen.

Sv Co: Remained in Diemeringen.

AT Co: Moved to Oermingen and was pounded by enemy arty during trip. Convoy closed in at 0300.

Cn Co: Moved to Etting.

6 Jan 1945

1st Bn: Moved to Etting with CP 1200 yards W of town.

Co A in Etting.

Co B in Achen.

Co C in Witting.

Co D in Achen.

2nd Bn: Reld elements of 63 Div and was attached to the 399th Inf.

Co E vic Lambach.

Co F vic Lambach.

Co G vic Lambach.

Co H vic Lambach.

3rd BN: On line of reserve.

Co I vic Etting.

Co K vic Etting.

Co L vic Achen.

Co M vic Etting.

7 Jan 1945

Weather: Snow flurries, cloudy and cold.

Visibility: Fair.

The Regiment remained in defensive position and continued to improve emplacements. No enemy contact was made. OP's were manned along the entire front.

AT Co: Three guns mobile at Oermingen and six guns in defensive positions seven miles N of Oermingen.

1st Bn: Co A in Regtl reserve. Cos B and C on the line in fortified positions along the Maginot Line.

2nd Bn: No change in position; received light arty fire.

8 Jan 1945

Weather: Snow and cold.

Visibility: Very poor.

The Regiment, less detached units, remained in defensive positions with mission to occupy, organize, and defend along the Maginot Line within assigned sector.

1st Bn: CP moved 5 miles to Rohrbach while Bn moved into and occupied defensive positions N of Rohrbach and constituted Division Tactical Reserve along Maginot Line from Rohrbach to Lingling.

Co A in Rohrbach, Co B in Rohrbach, Co C in Witting, Co D in Rohrbach.

8 Jan 1945

2nd Bn: Atchd to 399th Inf.

Co G captured a 6-man patrol which had infiltrated into Lambach. They were hidden all night in a house fifty feet from the Bn CP.

3rd Bn: Remained in defensive position along Maginot Line from Achen to Lingling. They maintained contact with platoon of 100th Recon Troops on left. K and L Cos on the line of reserve in vic of Etting. Co L sent out night patrols for possible enemy contact. Co I in reserve in Etting.

9 Jan 1945

Weather: Snow and cold.

Visibility: Very poor.

Under the provisions of WD Circular 408, 17 Oct 1944, the 398th Infantry was designated a Combat Infantry Regiment per GO #9, Hqs 100th Inf Div, 9 Jan 45.

The Regiment, less 1st and 2nd Bns, remained in defensive positions vic Maginot Line from Achen to Singling.

Sv Co: Moved to Sarre Union.

AT Co: Six guns in position near and in Achen and Lingling; three guns mobile at Oermingen.

1st Bn: Attached to 397th Inf and moved to vic Guising. Attacked Hill 370 S of Remling. The Bn encountered heavy enemy small arms fire, then mortar, rocket, and arty fire. Several casualties were suffered by assault companies, A on the left and C on the right. B Co, in reserve, was also hit hard. Enemy tanks counterattacked twice and were repulsed but inflicted several casualties. The Hill was captured and then A and C Cos started to maneuver to the W and were pinned down by S/A, and arty fire from Remling. The Bn withdrew under cover of darkness and returned to defensive positions near Rohrbach. Casualties were heavy.

2nd Bn: Atchd to 399th Inf and received consistent shelling by enemy 88's and mortars. Co F engaged in fire fight while in support of 3rd Bn, 399th Inf.

10 Jan 1945

Weather: Fair and cold.

Visibility: Good.

The Regiment prepared to relieve elements of the 397th Inf.

2nd Bn: Co F attacked at 0750 and met heavy resistance from S/A and arty fire. The Company was moving forward to clean out woods. The Company Commander, H. D. Smith, Capt, was hit by arty. The Company was pinned down by fire and withdrew to old position at 1000.

10 Jan 1945

3rd Bn: Moved by motor and foot to vic Guising and reld elements of 397th Inf. Defensive positions were taken. Light arty fell.

11 Jan 1945

Weather: Fair and Cold.

Visibility: Fair.

Rg Hqs: Moved to Bining.

AT Co: Moved to Bining but all guns were deployed in positions 4 miles NE of Bining.

Cn Co: Moved to Bining.

1st Bn: Cp remained in Rohrbach.

Co A in defensive positions around Rohrbach.

Co B moved to Rhorbach from Guising.

Co C in positions NW of Guising.

Co D Guising.

2nd Bn: In Petit Rederching. All companies were now in Petit Rederching under Regtl control.

3rd Bn: In defensive positions in vic Guising.

12 Jan 1945

Weather: Fair and cold.

Visibility: Fair.

The relief of the 397th Inf was complete and all units reverted to Regimental control with CO, 398th Inf assuming command of the sector. The 3rd Bn 397th Inf was attached to us and remained in positions along the Maginot Line N of Rohrbach.

All companies and Bn CP's and supply installations prepared all-around defenses in event of a surprise attack or breakthrough. Foxholes were dug for all individuals. Gun emplacements were set up and personnel were organized into tactical groups for defense.

Cn Co: Improved positions and registered defensive fires.

1st Bn: Co A occupied positions 200 yds N of Bettviller.

2nd Bn: CP was now in Hoelling. Co F moved vic Bettviller, Co E moved vic NE Hoelling, and Co G moved vic Bettviller.

3rd Bn: On line of defense in vic Guising.

12 Jan 1945

Supporting Units: Co B 776 TD Bn, Co B 824 TD Bn, Co B 749 Tnk Bn, 374 FA Bn, Co B 325 Med Bn.

13 Jan 1945

Weather: Cold.

Visibility: Fair.

The 3rd Bn was on the left of the Regtl sector, the 1st Bn was in the center and the 2nd Bn on the right. The 2nd Bn 397th Inf was in defensive position in the rear of the lines and was the reserve bn.

1st Bn: Remained in position. During the night patrols were sent out to the immediate front (N) to reconnoiter for enemy positions. No contact was made; however, vehicles moving around were observed. Concertina wire was laid in front of bn sector during the night.

2nd Bn: Preparations were carried out to strengthen positions along the front with wire and obstacles. Intermittent arty and mortar fire fell on bn positions.

3rd Bn: Preparations for laying wire were made. Night patrols were sent out but no contact was made. Heavy arty and mortar fire were received and eight casualties were suffered.

The 2nd Bn 397th Inf remained in Regtl reserve and continued to prepare defensive positions along the Maginot Line of forts. Reconnaissance for defensive positions along the forts continued.

14 Jan 1945

Weather: Fair and cold.

Visibility: Good.

The Regiment, plus the 2nd Bn, 397th Inf, continued to improve its defensive positions. Each forward Bn sent out combat and reconnaissance patrols to its front with missions of locating enemy installations and bringing back prisoners. No enemy activity was observed but four prisoners were taken. Wire and concertina were being laid at night.

AT Co: Defense positions were coordinated with Co B 824th TD Bn.

Cn Co: Three observed missions were fired with resulting damage of one armored vehicle, 2 enemy casualties, and one OP and one gun position neutralized.

3rd Bn: Co I took 4 prisoners.

14 Jan 1945

PWs: The total number of Pws processed thru Regimental cage since 8 Nov 44—340.

Enemy Information: PWs stated that they were short of fuel for their tanks. They claimed that during a tank attack 1 Jan 1945 three tanks had to stop when they ran out of fuel.

15 Jan 1945

Weather: Fair and cold.

Visibility: Fair.

The Regiment, plus 2nd Bn 397th Inf, remained in position and continued to strengthen defensive positions along the entire Regtl sector. More wire and concertina were laid along the front during the night. Patrols were again sent out to the front with the mission of contacting the enemy and taking prisoners. No prisoners were taken. Enemy rockets, mortars, and arty fell throughout the sector.

Supporting Units: Co B 776 TD Bn, Co B 824 TD Bn, 374 FA Bn, Co B 325th Med Bn.
Co B 776 TD Bn knocked out a tank by direct fire.

16 Jan 1945

Weather: Fair and cold.

Visibility: Fair.

The Regiment remained in its present defensive position. Patrols were sent out by forward Bns with mission of capturing prisoners and reconnoitering enemy positions. More wire was laid and positions were strengthened. Heavy arty and mortar fire continued to fall among the front line troops throughout the day.

Cn Co: Silenced an enemy mortar battery and fired on troop concentrations.

17 Jan 1945

Weather: Snow flurries and cold.

Visibility: Poor.

The Regiment, plus 2nd Bn 397th, continued to defend along the present front lines. During the night the laying of wire and concertina was continued. Combat and recon patrols were sent out. No contact with the enemy was reported. Intermittent enemy arty and mortar fire fell on front line positions.

18 Jan 1945

Weather: Cloudy and cold.

Visibility: Poor.

Four PWs captured bringing the total from 8 Nov 44 to 344.

19 Jan 1945

Weather: Sleet and cold.

Visibility: Poor.

The Regiment, plus 397th Infantry's 2nd Bn, continued to defend along present front lines. Laying of wire and concertina continued during the night. Patrols were sent out to the immediate front. The 2nd Bn 397th Inf was relieved on position by 2nd Bn, 255th Inf. Intermittent arty and mortar fire fell on front line positions. Enemy flares during the night hampered patrolling.

20 Jan 1945

Weather: Snow and cold.

Visibility: Poor.

The Regiment was relieved by the 71st Inf on position.

Supporting Units: Co B 325 Med Bn.

Rg Hqs: Moved to Montbroun.

AT Co: Moved to Montbroun.

Cn Co: Moved to Montbroun.

1st Bn: Relieved by 3rd Bn 71st Inf and the Bn moved to vic Montbroun and spend the day in the care and cleaning of clothing and equipment. Co B atchd to XV Corps at Fenetrange to guard Corps CP.

2nd Bn: Relieved by 2nd Bn 71st Inf and cleared into Petit Rederching.

3rd Bn: Relieved by 1st Bn 71st Inf and cleared into vic Guisberg.

21 Jan 1945

Weather: Cold.

Visibility: Fair.

The Regiment prepared positions throughout the period and special training was carried on. There was an alert for the probable relief of 141st Inf.

Troops in reserve positions cared for clothing and equipment. Preparations were made for the defense of Montbroun.

22 Jan 1945

Weather: Snow and cold.

Visibility: Fair.

Preparations were made for the Regt to move to an assembly area and then relieve elements of the 141st Inf.

AT Co: Moved on foot to Lemberg to go into defensive positions as riflemen.

1st Bn: Moved by foot to assembly area vic St Louis and was prepared to relieve 1st Bn, 141st Inf. Co B returned to Bn control from mission of protecting XV Corps CP.

2nd Bn: Moved by motor to vic Meisenthal to relieve 2nd Bn, 141st Inf on position.

3rd Bn: Moved by foot to assembly area vic Enchenberg to relieve 3rd Bn, 141st Inf on position and then to Lemberg. COs I, K, L vic Lemberg.

Supporting Units: 807 TD Bn (Towed), 375 FA Bn, Co B 325 Med Bn.

23 Jan 1945

Weather: Snow and cold.

Visibility: Poor.

The Regiment's present mission was to hold and improve defensive positions.

AT Co: In positions at Lemberg as riflemen and subjected to heavy mortar fire.

1st Bn: CP in St Louis. Bn held line running N and S about 1500 yards E of St Louis. Cos A and C in the line and Co B in reserve NE St Louis.

2nd Bn: CP in Meisenthal, Co E vic Goetzenbruck, Co F vic Sarreinsberg, Co G vic Althorn.

Supporting Units: 807 TD Bn (Towed), 375 FA Bn, Co B 325 Med Bn.

24 Jan 1945

Weather: Cloudy and cold.

Visibility: Fair.

The Regiment continued to strengthen its positions in its present defensive sector. During the night the enemy was active in preparing his own defenses and sending patrols which were fired upon and beaten off.

2nd Bn: An enemy patrol of 10 to 12 men approached G Co and were fired upon by mortar and arty. The patrol returned the action with burp guns. BAR men and riflemen returned the fire and the patrol withdrew.

24 Jan 1945

3rd Bn: Co L patrol contacted enemy and a fire fight ensued. Three of the enemy believed killed by hand grenades. All of our men returned to safety. In the sector of Company K 12 approaching enemy were chased away by mortar fire.

25 Jan 1945

Weather: Cloudy and cold.

Visibility: Good.

The Regiment was relieved by elements of the 137th Inf.

Raider Patrols were organized. Each bn will have one raider patrol group consisting of 2 officers, 1 full strength rifle platoon, 1 section 60mm mortars, and one section of light machine guns.

AT Co: Relieved by elements of the 35th Div and took up gun positions at Montbroun.

Cn Co: Silenced hostile mortars.

1st Bn: Moved to Enchenberg and went into Div reserve. Reconnoitered and began preparing positions on high ground E of Enchenberg.

2nd Bn: Left front line positions, Cos E, F, and G vic Petit Rederching. Co F was in Regtl reserve.

3rd Bn: CP in Enchenberg. Cos I and K in defensive positions in vic Lemberg. Co I in reserve vic Enchenberg. Some enemy arty fell in Lemberg but there were no casualties.

Supporting Units: 824 TD Bn (Towed), 925 FA Bn, Co B 325 Med Bn.

26 Jan 1945

Weather: Clear and cold.

Visibility: Fair.

The Regiment continued preparing defensive positions vic high ground E of Enchenberg and Maginot Line N of Petit Rederching. Two companies of Corps Engrs assisted in preparing positions vic Enchenberg.

Rg Hqs: In Montbroun.

Sv Co: In Sarre Union.

AT Co: In Montbroun.

Cn Co: Montbroun.

26 Jan 1945

1st Bn: Carried on instructions and firing of small arms weapons and 60 and 81mm mortars. Bn was assisted by Engrs preparing defensive positions E of Enchenberg.

2nd Bn: Prepared defensive positions on Maginot Line N of Petit Rederching.

3rd Bn: Remained in defensive positions N of Lemberg. Patrols were sent out to reconnoiter enemy positions.

Supporting Units: 925 FA Bn, Co B 325 Engrs and 2 Cos Corps Engrs, Co B 325 Med Bn.

27 Jan 1945

Weather: Snow and cold.

Visibility: Poor.

The Regiment continued to defend along its present front lines. The 44th Inf Div was left (W) of the 100th Inf Div and the 35th Inf Div was right (E) of the 100th. The XV Corps continued present defensive position and mission.

28 Jan 1945

Weather: Snow and cold.

Visibility: Poor.

The Regiment remained in position and continued to defend its present positions. Patrols were sent out.

1st Bn: Continued preparations of defensive positions E of Enchenberg and NW of Montbroun. During the day special instructions were carried out. Weapons were test and zeroed in. Care and cleaning of person and equipment were continued.

2nd Bn: Continued preparation of defensive positions on the Maginot Line N of Petit Rederching. During the day special instructions were given on shell reports and close artillery cooperation. The ARC served coffee and doughnuts to Bn troops.

3rd Bn: Atchd to the 399th Inf. Remained in defensive positions N of Lemberg.

29 Jan 1945

Weather: Clear and cold.

Visibility: Good.

1st Bn: Reconnoitered positions of 137th Inf in preparation for the relief of the left sector.

29 Jan 1945

2nd Bn: Made reconnaissance of positions to be occupied in the right sector of the 137th Inf

3rd Bn: Atchd to the 399th Inf and remained in present defensive position. Patrols were sent out during the night. Wire laying parties laid wire to the front.

The XV Corps continued its present defensive mission with the 44th Inf Div on the left (W) and the 100th Inf Div protecting the Corps' right (E) boundary. The VI Corps was on our right (179th Inf). The 100th Div continued its present defensive mission. From L to R: 397th Inf Regt, 399th, and the 398th Inf protecting the Div right (E) flank.

30 Jan 1945

Weather: Snow and cold.

Visibility: Poor.

The Regiment, less the 3rd Bn, relieved the 137th Inf on position. CO, 398th Inf assumed command of the sector at 0600.

AT Co: 2 guns at Lemberg, 2 at Enchenberg, 3 at St Louis, and 2 guns at Meisenthal.

1st Bn: Moved from vic Enchenberg to the high ground vic Lemberg to relieve elements of 2nd and 3rd Bns of 137th Inf. CP in St Louis.

2nd Bn: Moved by motor from vic Petit Rederching to relieve elements of 1st and 3rd Bns, 137th Inf on position vic Goetzenbruck and Sarreinsberg. CP in Meisenthal.

3rd BN: Atchd to 399th Inf. Remained in position and reverted to 398th Inf control at 0600. CP in Enchenberg. Concentrations of mortar fell on front line positions.

Supporting Units: 375 FA Bn, Co B 325 Engrs, Co A 824 TD (Towed), Co B 325 Med Bn.

31 Jan 1945

Weather: Cloudy and light rain.

Visibility: Poor.

Rg Hqs still in Montbroun. The Regiment adjusted and reorganized present defensive positions, along the line N of Sarreinsberg to positions vic 746471, vic le Kallert. The 398th was on the Div right flank, the 399th was on our left and the 179th Inf was on our right.

In our Regtl sector the 3rd Bn was on the left (N), the 1st Bn was in the center, and the 2nd Bn was on the right (S).

31 Jan 1945

Sv Co: Sarre Union, France

AT Co: Montbroun

Cn Co: Montbroun

1st Bn: Organized its positions and planned their fires, coordinating automatic weapons' fire. Reserve positions were begun with vigorous training conducted in rear areas. Patrols were sent out during the night.

Bn CP in St Louis, Cos A, B, C in Lemberg.

2nd Bn: Continued organizing its defensive positions N of Sarreinsberg. Physical contact was maintained by patrols. Defensive fires were planned and coordinated for defense of Div right flank. During the night reconnaissance patrols were sent out. Special patrol training was carried out during the day.

CP in Meisenthal, Co E in Goetzenbruck, Co F in Sarreinsberg.

3rd Bn: Remained in defensive positions and maintained contact with the unit on its left. Patrols were sent out during the night to destroy enemy gun positions. Concertina was laid to the immediate front during the night. Four prisoners turned themselves in to Co L.

CP Enchenberg, Co I in Lemberg, Co K in Enchenberg, Co L in Lemberg.

Supporting Units: 375 FA Bn, Co B 325 Engrs, Co A 824 TD (Towed), Co B 325 Med Bn.

PWs: 349 prisoners have been processed thru the Regtl cage since 8 Nov 44.

SUMMARY: The month ended with the Regiment holding defensive positions. The morale of the command was excellent and the men were considerably heartened by the strong Russian drive. Though no man can predict the time the war in Europe will end, each, however, feels that victory is certain and the utmost effort on our part at this time will hasten the day of Victory.