

OPERATIONS SUMMARY - 397TH INFANTRY REGIMENT

JANUARY 1945

MAP REFERENCE: France 1/100,000

JANUARY 1

1st Bn: Companies remained generally in old positions. A Company suffered occasional shelling in Bettviller. B Company was attacked by an enemy force estimated at 30. The attack was broken by mortar and artillery. 11 prisoners were taken, balance of 10 killed while the company lost one man, WIA. D Company repulsed enemy counter attack. It was shelled by artillery. The Battalion received air support.

2nd Bn: Remained in Regimental Reserve in defensive positions except F Company. E Company improved position North and West of Gare de Rohrbach. F Company was ordered to take up positions left of K Company. Due to enemy activity, it was forced to occupy position South of Guising. Enemy mortar and 88 fire fell regularly. G Company remained dug in at Gare de Rohrbach with mild air activity to its front.

3rd Bn: Hit by enemy Infantry force of three or four companies. Attack began at 0005 on left flank of K Company. Blunt of enemy force directed to 44th Division Sector which was dug in at K Company's left flank. Aided by enemy tanks, the attack went on all night and morning. I Company remained in same position in Rimling repulsing enemy counterattack on K Company's left flank. K Company also remained in same position in Rimling repulsing enemy counterattack on its left flank with resultant heavy casualties. Twenty prisoners were taken. L Company too repulsed enemy counterattack capturing 18 more prisoners.

OPERATIONS SUMMARY 397TH INFANTRY REGIMENT (Continued)

CANNON CO: Fired 144 missions of HE at targets of troops and for registration.

ANTITANK CO: Defended Regimental Zone.

325TH ENGR BN CO A: Laid 1000 mines Northeast out of Bettviller between A and C Companies.

WEATHER: Clear and cold. Visibility excellent.

PRISONERS: 51 (To date 672)

REPLACEMENTS: None

CASUALTIES: EM - 15 MIA; 1 SWA; 2 LWA; 2 LIA.

JANUARY 2

1st Bn: Remained in Petit Rederching. There was no enemy action other than some mortar on front line positions. A, B, and C Companies adhered to same positions in Bettviller continuing to adjust, consolidate and improve them. Patrols were sent out. There were some slight casualties from light shelling.

2nd Bn: Alerted at 0200. E Company continued to improve defensive positions. Occupied positions in Gare de Rohrbach to meet possible thrust from Northwest. F Company remained in position Southeast of Guising. G Company left positions in Gare de Rohrbach going due Northwest one mile to Guising, manning defensive positions 2,000 yards from edge of town. Enemy action continued to the left flank. H Company held positions in Rohrbach on the Regimental Reserve line. Enemy positions bombed and strafed.

3rd Bn: Adhered to same positions in Rimling on the defensive. The companies received heavy enemy artillery and mortar fire with no resultant casualties. Patrols were sent out near Erching. Enemy tanks and infantry attacked left flank which was repelled by small arms and automatic weapons fire from the battalion and supporting artillery.

OPERATIONS SUMMARY 397TH INFANTRY REGIMENT (Continued)

CANNON CO: Was in defensive positions in Rohrbach prepared to move battery to new positions. Enemy aircraft strafed fire direction center with no resultant damage. Company fired 299 missions of HE at enemy troops.

ANTITANK CO AND A CO 325TH ENGR BN: Laid 1,000 mines in front of A Company.

WEATHER: Clear and cold. Visibility - excellent.

PRISONERS: One (To date 671)

REINFORCEMENTS: None

CASUALTIES: EM - 2 MIA; 1 DOW; 2 SWA; 9 LWA; 2 LIA.

OFF - 1 LWA.

JANUARY 3

1st Bn: The rifle companies continued to defend along its present front lines in Bettwiller, adjusting, consolidating, and improving their positions. D Company and Headquarters Company remained at Petit Rederching. All elements received much artillery fire with no resulting casualties.

2nd Bn: Remained in regimental reserve in defensive positions. E Company in Gare de Rohrbach was alerted and moved to secure positions and possible thrust from Northwest. Company captured two Germans and a vehicle. F Company remained in positions Southeast of Guising undergoing constant enemy mortar and 88mm with plentiful activity to its front. G Company was counterattacked at 0200 in its defensive positions, however, the enemy was driven off. Enemy activity continued during the early morning and grew in intensity until 0500 overrunning the positions of two platoons inflicting two KIA and 11 MIA. Friendly artillery barrage was laid down on this position after platoons withdrew forcing the enemy to hold and dig in. At 1700 launched a coordinated attack supported by tanks, succeeding in driving the enemy from its former positions and reoccupying same. H Company held positions on the regimental reserve line, losing contact during the night with the unit on the left regaining same during the day.

OPERATIONS SUMMARY 397TH INFANTRY REGIMENT (Continued)

3rd Bn: Received direct fire from enemy tanks. I Company held to its same defensive positions near Rimling sending out patrols and receiving very heavy artillery and mortar fire. K Company caught the enemy in a close fire on its left until the tanks supporting G Company arrived.

CANNON COMPANY: Fired 128 missions of Antitank at targets, enemy tanks, troops, and possible artillery positions.

ANTITANK COMPANY AND CO A 325TH ENGR BN: Completed the laying of 1,000 mines in front of A Company Regimental Sector.

WEATHER: Cold, low clouds. Visibility poor.

PRISONERS: 11 (To date 682).

REINFORCEMENTS: None.

CASUALTIES: EM - 1 KIA. OFF - 1 KIA.

JANUARY 4

1st Bn: Continued same position in Petit Rederching with rifle companies in Bettwiller. The battalion received much artillery on all positions with light casualties.

2nd Bn: Remained in defensive positions in regimental reserve, in Rohrbach. E Company continued to occupy defensive positions in Gare de Rohrbach, with a reserve platoon moving to vicinity of Guising to reinforce 3rd Battalion line. F Company remained in positions Southeast of Guising under constant enemy artillery fire. G Company still in its defensive position encountered enemy machine gun fire during the morning with friendly air activity to the front. Enemy artillery fell to the right and rear flanks.

OPERATIONS SUMMARY 397TH INFANTRY REGIMENT (Continued)

3rd Bn: Consolidated and improved its positions throughout the time. "I" Company held to its defensive position near Rimling sending out patrols and receiving heavy enemy artillery fire.

CANNON CO: Split into two batteries of three guns each in Rohrbach firing 279 missions at enemy observation posts, troops, tanks, trucks, and mortar positions. Damage was unobserved.

WEATHER: Cold, clear. Visibility: Excellent.

PRISONERS: 3 (Total to date 685).

REINFORCEMENTS: None.

CASUALTIES: EM - 1 KIA; 4 MIA; 1 SWA; 1 LWA.

JANUARY 5

1st Bn: Continued in its positions at Petit Rederching with the rifle companies continuing in Bettwiller. Positions were heavily shelled by enemy artillery. The battalion received air support to the direct front by the 12th TAC planes which bombed and strafed enemy positions.

2nd Bn: Continued in regimental reserve defensive positions in Guising. "E" Company left defensive position in Gare de Rohrbach and relieved I Company at Rimling sustaining 5 WIA by enemy sniper fire. F Company left positions Southwest of Guising to relieve K Company. G Company stayed in Guising as enemy artillery and mortar fell to the flank and rear. Enemy counterattacked but was driven off by artillery. Five prisoners were taken. H Company moved from regimental reserve line at Rohrbach to the main line of resistance in support of the companies relieving the 3rd Battalion.

OPERATIONS SUMMARY 397TH INFANTRY REGIMENT (Continued)

3rd Bn: Was relieved by elements of the 2nd Battalion as above indicated.

A CO 325TH ENGR BN: Maintained guard and machine gun outposts in Bining. Sanded and improved the road between Bining and Rahling.

WEATHER: Cold, clear. Visibility: excellent.

PRISONERS: 4 (To date 690).

REINFORCEMENTS: None.

CASUALTIES: EM - 1 MIA; 3 SWA; 5 LWA; 1 SIA.
OFF - 1 LWA.

JANUARY 6

1st Bn: Continued to adjust, consolidate and improve their positions with the rifle companies remaining in Bettwiller. The forward installations suffered occasional artillery fire with resultant slight casualties.

2nd Bn: Took up defensive positions on the main line of resistance. E and F Companies completed the relief of I and K Companies at 2300 in Singling and received mortar and small arms fire during the day. G Company in defensive position in Guising observed enemy remove and directed artillery and mortar fire on tanks and infantry forcing them to withdraw to the Northwest. There were five prisoners taken.

3rd Bn: I Company, having been relieved on the previous day and having withdrawn to position near Rohrbach, held such positions. K Company, having been relieved of defensive positions by F Company, moved into regimental reserve at Bining. M Company remained in Bining and occupied itself with having its equipment checked and cleaned.

WEATHER: Cold, cloudy. Visibility: fair.

PRISONERS: 7 (To date 697).

REINFORCEMENTS: None.

CASUALTIES: EM - 1 DOW; 2 SWA; 3 LWA;. OFF - 1 LWA.

OPERATIONS SUMMARY 397TH INFANTRY REGIMENT (Continued)

JANUARY 7

1st Bn: Continued to defend along its present front lines with the rifle companies still in Bettwiller and Headquarters Company and D Company in Petit Rederching. There was considerable shelling by enemy artillery with no casualties.

2nd Bn: Maintained same position on the main line of resistance. German troops massed at (63.7-54.3). There were observed four or five tanks. The rifle companies in Rimling and Guising encountered constant enemy sniper, artillery, and mortar fire. Artillery concentration was laid down at Utweiler, driving the enemy out. Six prisoners were taken as we sustained casualties of 1 KIA and 4 WIA.

3rd Bn: Remained in regimental reserve except that I Company relieved F Company at 1630 near Guising. There was limited activity.

CANNON CO: Fired 23 missions of HE at machine gun and personnel targets.

A CO 325TH ENGR BN: Closed gap in mine field in front of 1st Battalion maintaining Robrbach - Rahling Road and guard and machine gun OPs in the vicinity of Bining.

WEATHER: Cold and fog. Visibility: poor.

PRISONERS: 6 (To date 703)

REINFORCEMENTS: None.

CASUALTIES: EM - 1 MIA; 1 SWA; 1 LWA.

JANUARY 8

1st Bn: Continued to defend, adjusting, improving, and consolidating its front lines with the rifle companies still remaining in Bettwiller with Headquarters and D Company at Petit Rederching. There was some shelling on the battalion forward positions with no casualties resulting.

OPERATIONS SUMMARY 397TH INFANTRY REGIMENT (Continued)

2nd Bn: Enemy counterattack of strong forces of infantry and tanks supported by heavy artillery barrage was made on the battalion at 0330. Enemy infiltrated through the main line of resistance at 0400 and the battalion forward C.P. was attacked by a tank which was successfully driven off through Rimling. E Company was subjected to terrific artillery, mortar, and rocket shelling followed by counterattack at 0200 with tanks and infantry forcing it to withdraw from its defensive positions to the C.P. in Rimling. Another fierce enemy attack began at 0500 but the enemy was forced to withdraw. F Company was in a similar predicament suffering 3 KIA and 12 WIA. Took 41 prisoners. G Company elements were defending vicinity "Q643548" were forced to withdraw vicinity North of Guising. H Company was on the main line of resistance in Rimling in support of the battalion. It repulsed the attack by enemy forces of 200 men and tanks killing a large number with its heavy machine guns and carbines and capturing many.

3rd Bn: I Company repulsed enemy attack and moved to position joining forces with elements of G Company to defend high ground North of Guising. K Company moved to position North of Guising receiving heavy enemy mortar and artillery fire. L Company remained in Rimling sustaining a few casualties from enemy heavy fire mortar and artillery. M Company had its mortar platoon move up and support of K Company.

CANNON CO: Remained in defensive positions in Rohrbach. Fired 27 missions of HE at enemy troop targets.

WEATHER: Snow and cold. Visibility: poor.

PRISONERS: 42 (To date 745).

OPERATIONS SUMMARY 397TH INFANTRY REGIMENT (Continued)

JANUARY 9

1st Bn: Continued in its defensive position in Bettwiller and in Petit Rederching suffering much enemy artillery on all positions causing some light casualties.

2nd Bn: Continued to defend Rimling. E Company moved from Rimling to Gare de Rohrbach taking up defensive positions and defending the Battalion C.P. driving the enemy off. F Company maintained defensive positions on the outskirts of Rimling and were attacked at 0400 by infantry and tanks. Its attempt to recapture its C.P. were in vain and company withdrew to Guising. G Company maintained defensive positions in Guising as elements of the 398th Infantry passed through these positions with tank support, attacking the enemy. H Company in Rimling set off heavy machine guns on enemy patrols infiltrating the town at 0500. A number of the enemy were killed and others took cover in houses and commenced sniping. 81mm Platoon, 800 yards South of Rimling was attacked by 100 enemy. The members of the mortar platoon used rifles and carbine killing 26, capturing 29 and wounding 11. They maintained the positions until 1930 and withdrew with tanks for 6,000 yards to Rohrbach.

3rd Bn: I Company sent out patrols from the same defensive position held yesterday on the hill near Guising. K Company received heavy concentrations of enemy mortar and artillery fire on the same positions it held North of Guising. L Company suffered heavy artillery and mortar fire upon its defensive positions in the vicinity of Rimling.

CANNON CO: Fired 54 missions of HE at enemy personnel, killing some.

ANTITANK CO: Remained at Bining as its 4th Platoon took up defensive positions West of Guising.

OPERATIONS SUMMARY 397TH INFANTRY REGIMENT (Continued)

A CO 325TH ENGR BN: Prepared positions for mine field along Maginot Fort line.

WEATHER: Cold and clear. Visibility: poor.

PRISONERS: 22 (To date 767).

REINFORCEMENTS: None.

CASUALTIES: EM - 1 KIA; 93 MIA; 7 SWA; 9 LWA. OFF - 4 MIA.

JANUARY 10

1st Bn: Received sniper and artillery fire into its positions held in Petit Rederching and Bettwiller with light casualties. Companies consolidated defensive positions.

2nd Bn: Set up defensive positions after withdrawing from Rimling. E Company continued its old defensive positions in the vicinity of Gare de Rohrbach. F Company reorganized and took up defensive positions West of Guising (65.7-52-7). G Company remained on the outskirts of Guising. H Company reorganized in Rohrbach, picked up stragglers returning from Rimling withdrawal. One heavy machine gun section carried as MIA for two days returned.

3rd Bn: Moved from Bining relieving elements of the 398th Infantry. K Company took up positions in Etting and consolidated them. L Company took up positions in Rimling and consolidated those. M Company moved from North Guising to a position in the vicinity of Etting and was held in regimental reserve.

ANTITANK CO: Defended the regimental zone, with 2nd Platoon remaining in position, 1st and 4th Platoons moved to Bining and 3rd Platoon withdrawing to the vicinity of Bining under cover of darkness.

WEATHER: Cold and clear. Visibility: fair.

PRISONERS: 6 (To date 773).

REINFORCEMENTS: None.

CASUALTIES: EM - 6 LWA; 1 LIA.

OPERATIONS SUMMARY 397TH INFANTRY REGIMENT (Continued)

JANUARY 11

1st Bn: Retained its old positions dispatching a quartering party to Etting to arrange for quartering of troops. The companies suffered sniper, shelling and occasional artillery barrages with no resultant casualties.

2nd Bn: Reorganized its positions suffering no enemy activity. H Company took in Rimling and consumed the period in exchanging clothes, replacing equipment, and taking showers.

3rd Bn: Adjusted and consolidated its defensive positions. K Company remained near Welschhof Farms. Division Commander commanded personnel for fortitude and valor demonstrated by the company during the period of 24 December to 4 January 1945 for holding the forward positions of the lines with the enemy resorted to all out tactics attempting to dislodge the company from its positions. L Company remained in position in the vicinity of Achen. M Company retained positions in Etting.

CO A 325TH ENGR BN: Continued to prepare mine positions along Maginot Forts.

WEATHER: Cold and clear. Visibility: fair.

PRISONERS: None. (To date 773).

REINFORCEMENTS: None.

CASUALTIES: None.

JANUARY 12

1st Bn: Remained in same positions. The rifle companies stayed in Bettviller suffering occasional enemy artillery fire with no resultant casualties. C Company was relieved in position by A Company 398th Infantry and reverted to Battalion Reserve of the parent unit.

OPERATIONS SUMMARY 397TH INFANTRY REGIMENT (Continued)

JANUARY 12 (Contd)

2nd Bn: Became attached to 398th Infantry as of 2100 remaining in its same defensive positions manning outposts. The rifle companies stayed in Gare de Rohrbach manning outposts on the secondary defense line in Guising. H Company in billets in Rohrbach prepared to assume positions North of Rohrbach. There was no enemy activity.

3rd Bn: Improved defensive positions, I Company moved from Etting to relieve K Company at Singling. K Company had the mission of guarding the XV Corps C.P. L Company remained in position near Achen. M Company retaining old positions checked and cleaned clothing and equipment. Regimental C. P. opened in Oermingen at 2100.

WEATHER: Cold and clear. Visibility: fair.

PRISONERS: None.

REINFORCEMENTS: None.

CASUALTIES: None.

JANUARY 13

1st Bn: Was relieved in position from the vicinity of Bettviller by the 2nd Battalion 398th Infantry. Remaining in reserve in Etting. The rifle companies and mortar company left their positions for Etting on an eight mile march, digging in at new positions.

ANTITANK CO: Set up Northeast of Achen.

2nd Bn: Remained in regimental reserve in Mohrbach attached to the 398th Infantry occupying three observation posts within the battalion sector. There was no enemy activity. E Company continued to improve defensive positions in the vicinity of Gare de Rohrbach. F Company did the same. G Company retained defensive

OPERATIONS SUMMARY 397TH INFANTRY REGIMENT (Continued)

positions and improved them by placing a road block to insure against enemy infiltration through our lines. There was artillery to its left flank and friendly air craft to the front.

3rd Bn: Continued to consolidate, adjust, and improve its defensive positions without K Company which remained in Fenentrage guarding the XV Corps forward C.P. L Company moved to new positions in Achen, 1000 yards, contacting I Company on the left flank.

WEATHER: Cold and clear. Visibility: fair.

PRISONERS: None.

REINFORCEMENTS: None.

CASUALTIES: None.

JANUARY 14

1st Bn: Remained in same defensive positions in Etting with no enemy activity as it continued to consolidate, adjust, and improve these positions.

2nd Bn: Remained in regimental reserve attached to the 398th Infantry maintaining three outposts. E Company manned outposts Northwest and West of Gare de Rohrbach. F Company manned defensive positions at Gare de Rohrbach. G Company maintained road block in Gare de Rohrbach as a protection against paratroopers believed to have dropped nearby. There was no enemy encountered. Enemy artillery dropped to the rear. Friendly air activity observed. H Company dug defensive positions behind regimental main line of resistance at Rohrbach.

3rd Bn: Experienced no change from the previous day with I Company at Singling. L Company in Achen. M Company in Etting. K Company remained on guard of XV Corps forward C.P. at Fenentrage.

OPERATIONS SUMMARY 397TH INFANTRY REGIMENT (Continued)

WEATHER: Cold and clear. Visibility: Fair.

PRISONERS: None.

REINFORCEMENTS: None.

CASUALTIES: None

JANUARY 15

1st Bn: Remained in positions in Etting continuing to consolidate and adjust its defensive positions. There was no enemy activity.

2nd Bn: Remained in regimental reserve behind the main line of resistance on the defense continuing to man three outposts. E Company received aid from the Engineers in improving its positions and keeping its outposts Northwest and West of Gare de Rohrbach. G Company hit enemy artillery to the left flank and small arms fire to the front, with no enemy encountered. Engineers assisted company in its defensive positions by blasting out rocks with TNT charges.

3rd Bn: Conducted training in the rear areas as the company adjusted and consolidated its positions of yesterday. K Company continues to guard XV Corps forward C.P. at Fenenlange [Fenetrangle].

WEATHER: Cold and clear. Visibility: fair.

PRISONERS: None.

REINFORCEMENTS: None.

CASUALTIES: None.

JANUARY 16

1st Bn: Rotated its elements and conducted training in the rear areas. Diversion was afforded in the form of showers and a movie.

2nd Bn: Continued to maintain its three outposts and defensive positions on the regimental reserve line attached to the 398th Infantry. G Company experienced 10 time shell bursts in its area. H Company dug additional positions and laid

OPERATIONS SUMMARY 397TH INFANTRY REGIMENT (Continued)

tactical wires.

3rd Bn: Maintained same positions with K Company still guarding the XV Corps forward C.P. in Fenentränge.

CO A 325TH ENGR BN: Continued to prepare positions along present lines.

WEATHER: Cold and clear. Visibility: fair.

PRISONERS: None.

REINFORCEMENTS: None.

CASUALTIES: None.

JANUARY 17

1st Bn: Experienced no enemy action from the old positions held at Etting while A Company remained in positions in Achen defending along its present lines.

2nd Bn: Rotated its elements and conducted training in rear areas. The rifle companies maintained outposts in the vicinity of Gare de Rohrbach.

3rd Bn: Retaining same positions of yesterday continued the process of improving and consolidating its defenses. K Company continued to guard the XV Corps forward C.P. in Fenentränge.

WEATHER: Cold and clear. Visibility: fair.

PRISONERS: None.

REINFORCEMENTS: None.

CASUALTIES: None.

OPERATIONS SUMMARY 397TH INFANTRY REGIMENT (Continued)

JANUARY 18

1st Bn: Was alerted for a movement from its defensive positions in Etting with a mission of relieving elements of the 1st Battalion 255th Infantry under cover of darkness.

2nd Bn: Continued in its defensive positions on the regimental reserve line attached to the 398th Infantry improving and consolidating such. E Company reorganized and prepared defensive positions North and Northwest of Gare de Rohrbach. F Company manned its defensive positions without any change. G Company effected no change continuing to man the road block. Company had its personnel familiarize themselves with light machine guns and BARs. H Company laid barbed wire and continued to improve its positions in Rohrbach.

3rd Bn: Left defensive positions at 1700 with mission of relieving elements of the 3rd Battalion 255th Infantry under cover of darkness. I Company left Achen and occupied new positions in Holbach. L Company left Singling and Holbach. M Company moved its first and second platoons with attached company to new locations near Hottviller. K Company remained in Fenentrage guarding the XV Corps C.P. A Company 325th Engr Bn laid concertina wire along present front lines.

WEATHER: Cold and clear. Visibility: fair.

PRISONERS: None.

REINFORCEMENTS: 1 Captain M.C.

CASUALTIES: None.

JANUARY 19

1st Bn: Completed its move from Etting to Hoelling in positions formerly occupied by the 255th Infantry. A Company occupied positions near Neumuhl. B Company took up its new positions in Kapellenhoff. C Company took up new positions in Urbach receiving occasional artillery barrages.

2nd Bn: Reverted to regimental control upon its release from attachment to 398th Infantry and moved to the right on the regimental line of the Maginot Forts. E Company marched to Holbach six miles distant from Gare de Rohrbach. F Company moved to Holbach establishing road blocks. G Company billeted in Holbach houses leaving one platoon to man the pillbox and road block on the outskirts of the town. H Company moved from Rohrbach to Holbach digging in and building defensive positions. One section of the 81mm mortar and light machine gun platoon located at Hottviller. Third platoon relieved elements of 3rd Battalion 255th Infantry under cover of darkness. I Company

3rd Bn: I Company held same positions near Hottviller. L Company received sporadic artillery fire with no resultant casualties. M Company retained its positions Northeast of Hottviller encountering sniper and mortar fire without any affect.

OPERATIONS SUMMARY 397TH INFANTRY REGIMENT (Continued)

ANTITANK CO: Relieved AT 255th Infantry. First platoon took positions at Petit Rederching. Second platoon vicinity of Hoelling. Third platoon at Hottviller. The rest of the company remained in Petit Rederching.

CANNON CO: Moved from old gun positions in Langinwald enroute to Maierhoff and fired six missions of HE for registration.

WEATHER: Cold and rain. Visibility poor.

PRISONERS: None. (To date 773).

REINFORCEMENTS: 74 EM.

CASUALTIES: EM - 1 MIA.; 1 SWA; 4 LWA.

JANUARY 20

1ST BN: Encountered some little artillery on all its positions. A Company remained in Neumuhl in defensive position. B Company retained its positions in Kappelenhoff. C Company retained its position in Bettviller suffering occasional artillery barrage. D Company improved its old positions and dug new ones in Petit Rederching.

2nd Bn: Laid wire strengthening its positions and remained on the regimental reserve line. E Company left Holbach relieving I Company and taking up defensive positions East and South East of Hottviller. F Company continued to man road blocks. G Company from its same positions observed B17 crash to its rear after seven men parachuted to safety. H Company kept its heavy machine gun and 81mm mortar positions on the main line of resistance.

3rd Bn: Received light automatic weapons, artillery fire, and sporadic sniper fire on its positions. I Company moved to new security positions on the hill near Hottviller. K Company relieved of guard duty with the XV Corps forward C.P. by Company B 398th Infantry. Company took defensive positions in Hottviller. L Company encountered sniper fire in its old positions in Hottviller. M Company remained in same positions moving its second platoon with Company I, to new positions on left flank of battalion.

CANNON CO: fired five missions of HE for registration.

CO A 325TH ENGR BN: Continued preparation of defensive position along right sector of Maginot under control of Second Battalion.

WEATHER: Cold and snow. Visibility poor.

PRISONERS: None (To date 773).

REINFORCEMENTS: None.

CASUAITIES: EM - 1 MIA; 1 LWA.

OPERATIONS SUMMARY 397TH INFANTRY REGIMENT (Continued)

JANUARY 21

1st Bn: Experienced no enemy action from its old positions in Petit Rederching. A Company took up new positions near Bettviller. B Company encountered some artillery and sniper fire. One enlisted man was wounded by small arms fire. C Company suffered occasional artillery barrage in same positions in Bettviller.

2nd Bn: Prepared positions and manned pillboxes on the Maginot line with the assistance of the 325th Engineers. E Company suffered some mortar and artillery fire during the day in its defensive positions in Hottviller [Hottviller]. F Company manned road block with no enemy action. G Company had no appreciable change from yesterday. The Engineers assisted in digging in defensive positions. A Company dug heavy machine gun and 81mm mortar position on main line of resistance and regimental reserve line.

3rd Bn: Light 88mm fire, mortar and automatic weapon fire received. I Company improved position on hill near Hottviller. K Company moved into new defensive near Hottviller. L Company remained in position in Hottviller. M Company experienced sniper fire in its old position in Holbach.

CANNON CO: Fired three missions of HE for registration.

WEATHER: Cold and clear. Visibility fair.

PRISONERS: Two. (To date 775).

REINFORCEMENTS: None

CASUALTIES: EM - 1 SWA; 1 LIA.

JANUARY 22

1st Bn: Enemy patrol attempted to infiltrate to right flank of First Battalion in the vicinity (Q717553) and were repulsed with one killed and seven withdrawing. A Company continued in Battalion reserve. B Company received some enemy artillery and small arms fire in its old positions. C Company received occasional artillery barrages in its position in Bettviller. D Company from its position in Petit Rederching experienced some enemy patrol action, occasional enemy mortar and artillery fire with no casualties.

2nd Bn: Remained in defensive positions on regimental reserve line manning pillboxes on the Maginot line. E Company suffered mortar fire, sniper, and burp gun fire in Hottviller. G Company noted four enemy planes to the direct front strafing our artillery positions to the left rear.

3rd Bn: I Company moved from Hottviller to battalion reserve at Kapanhoff. I Company relieved company A and received enemy mortar and artillery fire in the vicinity of its new positions. M Company retained same positions encountering sniper fire during the day with no casualties.

OPERATIONS SUMMARY 397TH INFANTRY REGIMENT (Continued)

CANNON CO: Fired seven rounds of HE for registration from its old defensive position in Maierhoff.

WEATHER: Cold and clear. Visibility fair.

PRISONERS : None (To date 775).

CASUALTIES: EM - 1 SWA; 1 LIA.

REINFORCEMENTS: 231 EM.

JANUARY 23

1st Bn: Held on to same positions merely preparing and improving them defensively without encountering enemy action other than some slight artillery fire.

2nd Bn: Continued in defensive positions on the regimental reserve line improving them and occupying pillboxes. E Company was attached to the 3rd Battalion at Hottviller suffering sniper action and encountering some mortar fire. G Company stayed at Holbach observing friendly air activity to the left front as enemy artillery fell to the right flank.

3rd Bn: Little enemy activity contributed to the unusual pastime of coffee and doughnuts distributed by some Red Cross girls. K Company remained in Hottviller receiving enemy mortar and artillery fire in the vicinity of its positions. L Company received intermittent mortar, artillery and sniper fire into its positions in Hottviller. M Company from its old positions in Holbach suffered enemy sniper and mortar fire.

CANNON CO: Fired 35 missions of HE for registration and at machine gun positions.

WEATHER: Cold and clear, turning to snow at 1300. Visibility poor.

PRISONERS: None (To date 775).

REINFORCEMENTS: None.

CASUALTIES: EM - SWA 3; LWA 2.

JANUARY 24

1st Bn: Adhered to its old positions in Petit Rederching suffering enemy mortar and artillery fire with no attendant casualties. The American Red Cross furnished coffee and doughnuts through some of its girls.

2nd Bn: Retained its old positions continuing to defend along its present front lines with E Company in Hottviller and the other companies in Holbach.

Road blocks were maintained and certain weapons were testfired.

3rd Bn: Remained in Hottviller and Holbach adjusting consolidating and improving its positions. There were some light casualties as a result of enemy artillery and mortar fire.

CANNON CO: Fired 29 missions of HE for registration and at enemy machine gun which it destroyed.

WEATHER: Cold and clear. Visibility fair.

PRISONERS: None (To date 775).

REINFORCEMENTS: None.

CASUALTIES: None.

JANUARY 25

1st Bn: Suffered no enemy action in its old positions other than some light artillery and mortar fire. There were no casualties.

2nd Bn: Adjusted its positions with F Company manning road blocks and patrolling while G Company began the relief of E Company at 1700. There was no enemy action.

3rd Bn: Had very little enemy activity, as it continued to make adjustments and improving and consolidating its position.

CO A 325TH ENGR BN: Maintained roads in the regimental sector.

PRISONERS: One (To date 776).

REINFORCEMENTS: 3 EM, 1 Lt. Col.

CASUALTIES: None.

JANUARY 26

1st Bn: Remained in same positions receiving light mortar on some forward installations.

2nd Bn: Was in defense on the regimental reserve line. E Company was relieved by G Company under cover of darkness without incident. F Company improved its defenses patrolled and manned the road blocks. G Company encountered no enemy and completed relief of E Company at 2000. Enemy mortar fire dropped to the rear of the center platoon. H Company held its position on the regimental reserve line and prepared alternate positions.

3rd Bn: Experienced no appreciably change. I Company sent patrol out from its old positions in Kapellenhoff. K Company suffered enemy artillery and mortar fire into its positions in Hottviller. L Company received small arms fire in Hottviller.

ANTITANK CO: Remained in Petit Rederching and had returned to it the 4th Platoon from attachment to E Company.

WEATHER: Cold and continued snow. Visibility fair.

PRISONERS: None (To date 776).

REINFORCEMENTS: None.

CASUALTIES: None.

JANUARY 27

1st Bn: Defended along its present front lines experiencing very light enemy activity and suffering occasional light artillery barrages and mortar fire.

2nd Bn: Had no appreciably change in its defensive positions on the regimental reserve line but continued to improve them. E Company sent out patrols into the vicinity of Holbach. F Company patrolled and manned road blocks in Holbach. G Company was attached to the 3rd Battalion in the vicinity of Hottviller.

3rd Bn: Continued to consolidate and improve its position along its present front lines. I Company sent patrols out from its position in Kappellenhoff. K Company suffered one casualty from heavy, mortar and, artillery fire on its position in Hottviller. M Company observed small enemy patrols from its old positions in Holbach.

CANNON CO: Fired 44 missions of HE at enemy troops, howitzers and for registration.

CO A 325th ENGR BN: Maintained roads and constructed wire entanglements.

WEATHER: Cold with snow flurries. Visibility poor.

PRISONERS: One (To date 777).

REINFORCEMENTS: None.

CASUALTIES: None.

JANUARY 28

1st Bn: Reported no change in its positions with little enemy action other than occasional artillery barrages and mortar fire.

2nd Bn: Continued as yesterday in defensive positions on the regimental reserve line with G Company still attached to the 3rd Battalion.

3rd Bn: Had received some shelling in its old positions but there was no appreciably change from its condition of yesterday.

CANNON CO: Fires a cancellation for the 3rd battalion at enemy gun positions and personnel with damage unknown. It stopped an enemy patrol killing several of its members.

CO A 325TH ENGR BN: Guarded previously constructed concentrations and continued to improve defensive positions in the regimental sector.

WEATHER: Cold with snow flurries. Visibility poor.

PRISONERS: None. (To date 777).

REINFORCEMENTS: None.

CASUALTIES: None.

JANUARY 29

1st Bn: Retained its same positions in the towns set up in previously, defending along its front lines and receiving heavy barrages of enemy artillery,

2nd Bn: Remained in defensive positions on the regimental reserve line after company continued to consolidate and improve its positions. Pillboxes were manned on the Maginot line and patrolling continued.

3rd Bn: Continued to adjust, consolidate, and improve its positions with active patrolling. Artillery and mortar fire was received on K Company positions inflicting several shrapnel wounds on personnel.

CANNON CO: Fired 32 missions of HE interdicting fire and 26 missions of HE for registration and enemy personnel. The damage was unobserved.

CO A 325TH ENGR BN: Maintained roads and continued to make concertina wire and improve defensive positions.

WEATHER: Cold and clear. Visibility very good.

PRISONERS: None (To date 777).

OPERATIONS SUMMARY 397TH INFANTRY REGIMENT (Continued)

REINFORCEMENTS: None

CASUALTIES: EM - 3 SWA; 2 LWA.

JANUARY 30

1st Bn: No change reported in the company positions other than adjusting. Enemy artillery and mortar was suffered on all battalion positions throughout the day and in some small arms fire was received with no resultant casualties.

2nd Bn: Continued in defense on the regimental reserve line and company improved its positions and manned pillboxes exactly as they had been doing these last days. F Company prepared to relieve G Company and become attached to the 3rd Battalion in Hottviller. Patrolling continued. Road blocks were manned and labor details were sent forward.

3rd Bn: I Company retained old positions near Kappellenhoff sending patrols out. K Company in Hottviller sent reconnaissance patrol into Dollenbach. Patrol encountered enemy fire but no casualties were sustained and its mission was accomplished. L Company remained in Hottviller received mortar and barrages at intervals. M Company continued in Holbach encountering mortar and sniper fire in its positions with one enlisted man wounded.

CANNON CO: Fired 47 missions of HE at interdicting. Fired 11 missions of HE for registration.

WEATHER: Cold, snow flurries. Visibility poor.

PRISONERS: None (To date 777).

REINFORCEMENTS: None.

CASUALTIES: None.

JANUARY 31

1st Bn: Received heavy artillery fire in its positions; A Company at Kappellenhoff, B Company in Urbach, C Company in Urbach, and D Company in Petit Redereching. There were no resultant casualties.

2nd Bn: Improved its positions in the defense on the regimental reserve line. F Company moved into G Company area in Hottviller and became attached to the 3rd Battalion without incident. No appreciable enemy activity. G Company supervised Engineers in the digging of defensive positions. Occasional rounds of artillery fire fell to the company's left flank.

3rd Bn: Experienced no change other than some slight enemy activity. It continued to defend along its present front lines adjusting, consolidating and improving their positions.

OPERATIONS SUMMARY 397TH INFANTRY REGIMENT (Continued)

CANNON CO: Fired 36 missions of HE interdicting fire and 10 rounds for registration.

CO A 325TH ENGR BN: Guarded bridges and maintained roads. In the regimental sector and made concertina.

WEATHER: Cool, moderate rain. Visibility poor.

PRISONERS: None (To date 777).

REINFORCEMENTS: None.

CASUALTIES: None.