

OPERATIONS SUMMARY – 397TH INFANTRY REGIMENT

MARCH 1945

MAP REFERENCE: France 1/50,000

MARCH 1

1st Bn: Received some slight enemy action in the form of shelling with no resultant casualties. It conducted active patrolling, one to the vicinity of (710567) but no contact was made by the enemy. The Battalion experienced some sniper fire and enemy patrols were active.

2nd Bn: Continued to adjust, consolidate and improve their positions. E Company sent out patrols and made no enemy contact. F Company continued training in tactics and prepared to take over G Company's positions in Hottviller. G Company moved into reserve after having observed friendly aircraft active to its front and left.

3rd Bn: Conducted active patrolling, killing two (2) enemy and capturing one (1) in the vicinity of (732541). The Battalion received some artillery fire along its line intermittently. In the main the Battalion occupied itself in defending along its present front lines.

CANNON CO: Fired 129 rounds of HE for registration, at enemy vehicles and for correcting purposes.

325th ENGR CO A: Continued guard on assigned road-blocks.

WEATHER: Clear. Visibility good

PRISONERS: 1 (to date 814)

REINFORCEMENTS: 4 EM

CASUALTIES: Off – 1 SWA, EM – 1 KIA, 1 SWA.

MARCH 2

1st Bn: Suffered occasional sniper fire and considerable enemy artillery fire with no resultant casualties in its positions, where it continued to defend along its present front lines and were engaged in consolidating, adjusting

OPERATIONS SUMMARY 397TH INFANTRY REGIMENT (Continued)

and improving their positions. The Battalion conducted vigorous patrolling but no contact with the enemy was reported.

2nd Bn: Too continued to defend along its present front lines as F Company took over G Company positions in the vicinity of Hottviller without incident. Anti-tank platoon continued to maintain two (2) defensive positions.

3rd Bn: Received light 50mm and 80mm mortar and 75mm artillery fire in its center. H Company encountered some small enemy patrols.

CANNON CO: Fired ninety-two (92) rounds of HE at enemy troops, machine gun positions and for harassing purposes. Many rounds of enemy artillery landed in vicinity of company area resulting in several casualties.

WEATHER: Clear. Visibility good.

PRISONERS: 1 (to date 815)

REINFORCEMENTS: None

CASUALTIES: None

MARCH 3

1st Bn: Did not experience any appreciable change from the previous day other than to send the usual patrols and to suffer light sniper fire and shelling. E Company platoon conducted raid on a suspected OP (713565) finding the position unoccupied. The party encountered no enemy fire during the mission.

2nd Bn: Became attached to the 3rd Battalion in Hottviller. E Company sent out patrols and manned road-blocks. The company used work details and conducted training. F Company suffered occasional shelling by enemy artillery and mortar. G Company dispatched two (2) reconnaissance patrols that returned without encountering the enemy. Friendly fire and jet propelled planes passed over its positions and those planes were fired on by enemy anti-aircraft.

OPERATIONS SUMMARY 397TH INFANTRY REGIMENT (Continued)

3rd Bn: Consumed the day in consolidating, adjusting and improving its positions, and received some enemy artillery fire in its positions with no resultant casualties.

CANNON CO: Fired 112 rounds of HE at enemy troops and for registration.

ANTI-TANK CO: Constructed road-blocks and roads in the vicinity of Guisberg.

WEATHER: Clear. Visibility good.

PRISONERS: 1 (To date 816)

REINFORCEMENTS: 1 newly commissioned officer

CASUALTIES: Off – 1 SWA. EM – 1 LWA.

MARCH 4

1st Bn: Took advantage of an absolute lull by attending a movie arranged by the Special Service Office:

2nd Bn: Remained on the Regimental Reserve Line. E Company sent out patrols, work details and manned road-blocks. F Company captured five (5) armed enemy that were on a patrol, and suffered occasional mortar and artillery shelling. G Company had six (6) enemy aircraft pass over its position and then along its lines for about a mile. Friendly artillery to the left rear fired volleys during the day.

3rd Bn: Continued to defend along its present front lines and improve its positions. I Company received harassing machine gun fire from the draw (721560) which fire was silenced when artillery was called for. The Battalion otherwise experienced very little enemy activity.

CANNON CO: Fired 167 rounds of HE at enemy troops, for registration and harassing and at mortar positions. The company fired for the first time with the aid of Radar.

WEATHER: Snow. Visibility poor

OPERATIONS SUMMARY 397TH INFANTRY REGIMENT (Continued)

PRISONERS: 5 (To date 821)

REINFORCEMENTS: EM 2

CASUALTIES: None

MARCH 5

1st Bn: Continued to defend along its present front lines with the companies suffering occasional mortar and artillery shelling producing no casualties however. Some active patrolling was conducted but no enemy contact reported.

2nd Bn: Conducted patrolling with no enemy contact reported. F Company became attached to the 3rd Battalion in the vicinity of Hottviller and was shelled occasionally. G Company dispatched a reconnaissance patrol to locate enemy lines but poor visibility produced no results, and the patrol returned at 2300. Occasional small arms fire could be heard in the vicinity of the unit to the companies right.

3rd Bn: Suffered 50mm and 88mm mortar 75mm and 88 mm and 105mm artillery dropped in its sector. E Company was the object of an enemy attempt to infiltrate its lines which attempt was repulsed by heavy mortar fire. K Company reported slight enemy activity. Otherwise the Battalion continued to defend along its present front lines.

CANNON CO: Fired forty-three (43) rounds of HE at enemy OP, mortar positions and machine gun positions.

325th ENGR CO A: Continued guard on assigned road blocks and maintained roads in Regimental zone.

WEATHER: Slight snow. Visibility poor.

PRISONERS: None (To date 821)

OPERATIONS SUMMARY 397TH INFANTRY REGIMENT (Continued)

REINFORCEMENTS: None

CASUALTIES: None

MARCH 6

1st Bn: Dispatched some active patrols, one to Weiskirch. An enemy patrol passed within a few yards. B Company patrol was successful in its mission. Battalion received 50mm and 80mm mortar fire and 88mm and 105mm artillery fire in its sector occasionally throughout this period. There were no casualties.

2nd Bn: Conducted active patrolling. E Company prepared to take over positions from F Company in Hottviller which they did at 1800. F Company received occasional enemy artillery and mortar shelling. E Company patrol, with a mission to locate enemy lines to determine its strength and disposition, discovered unoccupied enemy positions and barbed wire entanglements. Several rounds of enemy artillery landed in the draw to the left rear of company.

3rd Bn: Continued to defend along its present front line consolidating, adjusting and improving its positions. L and M Companies though experiencing very little enemy activity received some artillery and mortar fire.

CANNON CO: Fired ninety-six (96) rounds of HE at enemy troops and for harassing.

WEATHER: Cool and rain. Visibility poor.

PRISONERS: None (To date 821)

REINFORCEMENTS: EM - 3

CASUALTIES: None

MARCH 7

1st Bn: Continued in its present front line positions. A Company

OPERATIONS SUMMARY 397TH INFANTRY REGIMENT (Continued)

received occasional shelling. B Company sent out a patrol N of Urbach at 2100. D Company received occasional mortar and artillery fire with no resultant casualties.

2nd Bn: Remained on the Regimental Reserve Line. E Company completed move to Hottviller taking over F Company positions without incident. F Company moved to Holbach and took the opportunity during this lull to shower its men, clean weapons, conduct physical inspection and attend a movie. G Company sent five (5) man patrol behind its line to prevent infiltration. No enemy encountered. Light 50mm and 80mm mortar was received in the Battalion center.

3rd Bn: Received some mortar in its sector as its elements continued to defend along its present front lines consolidating, adjusting and improving their positions.

CANNON CO: Fired 136 rounds of HE at enemy troops and harassing fire.

WEATHER: Cool and rain. Visibility poor.

PRISONERS: None (To date 821)

REINFORCEMENTS: EM - 47

CASUALTIES: None

MARCH 8

1st Bn: Conducted active patrolling, one of which was dispatched to Hill 310 without encountering enemy. It moved W to (703563) where they were fired on by a Panzerfaust and a burp gun. Estimated four (4) to six (6) enemy in that vicinity. There were no casualties.

2nd Bn. Remained on the Regimental Reserve Line. E Company, still attached to the 3rd Battalion in the vicinity N and NE of Hottviller, being subjected to mortar fire. F Company conducted training by way of general

OPERATIONS SUMMARY 397TH INFANTRY REGIMENT (Continued)

road march. C Company composed an eighteen (18) man patrol to drive supposed enemy from the woods. No enemy encountered. Company manned road-blocks. Occasional volleys of friendly artillery were heard to the left rear.

3rd Bn: Received eight (8) rounds of enemy 80mm mortar fire. Sent out a reconnaissance for planned night patrol reaching enemy wire without interference and could accomplish the planned mission of reconnoitering the route of approach to enemy positions from 73-54 block.

CANNON CO: Fired 128 rounds of HE at targets such as machine gun, enemy personnel, TOT and mortar positions and harassing fire.

WEATHER: Cool and rain. Visibility poor.

PRISONERS: None (To date 821)

REINFORCEMENTS: None

CASUALTIES: None

MARCH 9

1st Bn: Suffered little enemy action other than some shelling and harassing small arms fire with no casualties. A patrol was dispatched to search Hill 310 but no enemy was contacted.

2nd Bn: Continued its night patrolling. E Company remained attached to the 3rd Battalion encountering some medium artillery fire during period. F Company patrolled and continued its tactical training in squad problems, road marches and familiarization with machine gun and mortar. G Company dispatched road patrol to patrol roads in rear of line. No activity reported. It covered draw S and E of Hill 388.

3rd Bn: Continued to defend along its present front lines. I Company received a heavy barrage of enemy artillery estimated to be 170 mm. A direct hit in foxhole resulted in casualties on four (4). K Company suffered some

OPERATIONS SUMMARY 397TH INFANTRY REGIMENT (Continued)

enemy mortar shells to fall into its positions with no resultant casualties.
CANNON CO: Fired sixteen (16) rounds of HE for registration.
WEATHER: Cloudy. Visibility poor.
PRISONERS: None (To date 821)
REINFORCEMENTS: Two (2) newly commissioned officers
CASUALTIES: EM - 1 KIA; 2 LWA.

MARCH 10

1st Bn: Established a listening post and observed two (2) man enemy patrol at (703559) moving towards Urbach. It saw mortar firing in the vicinity of (701571) and machine gun firing (694564). For the first time 88's fired at vehicles moving from Holling to the 1st Battalion CP forward. The bulk of varied enemy fire fell into the Battalion sector on the front lines, CP and supply roads.

2nd Bn: Dispatched a patrol that was pinned down by small arms and AW fire from draw (747533). Patrol then cleared 8 of and to vicinity (746531) where they once more received machine gun fire. Patrol suffered one casualty.

3rd Bn: Conducted a raid, "plan Manhattan", to capture suspected company CP (734547). Mission was accomplished and the enemy CP was reported unoccupied. The raiding party discovered enemy mines and wires in the vicinity.

CANNON CO: Fired 157 rounds of HE at enemy personnel, mortar positions, TOT and for harassing.

WEATHER: Cool and rain. Visibility poor.
PRISONERS: None (To date 821)
REINFORCEMENTS: None
CASUALTIES: EM - 2 SWA; 1 LWA.

OPERATIONS SUMMARY 397TH INFANTRY REGIMENT (Continued)

MARCH 11

1st Bn: Conducted active patrolling, one of which encountered a six (6) man enemy OP (710565). There was otherwise very little action on either side, with A Company suffering shelling by mortar and artillery fire and harassing small arms fire.

2nd Bn: Remained on the Regimental Reserve Line with G Company preparing to take over E Company positions in Hottviller under cover of darkness, and the relief was completed by 1800. The elements of the Battalion conducted active patrolling, one of which encountered an enemy OP at (753528) and heard some light mortar fire (747535).

3rd Bn: Continued to defend along its present front lines and conducted active patrolling. A patrol booby-trapped an enemy position that was previously occupied at the head of a draw (722556) observing no enemy movement. A considerable part of sixty-four (64) rounds of enemy 105 mm artillery and 80 mm mortar fall in its sector throughout the period. K Company succeeded in taking two (2) prisoners.

CANNON CO: Fired 153 rounds of HE for registration, TOT, harassing fire. Enemy OP and enemy personnel.

WEATHER: Cool and clear. Visibility fair.

PRISONERS: 2 (To date 823)

REINFORCEMENTS: None

CASUALTIES: Off – 1 SWA. EM – 1 KIA; 2 MIA; 1 LIA.

MARCH 12

1st Bn: Continued active patrolling in addition to its defense along its front lines. B Company sent out combat patrol of twenty (20) men N of Urbach to destroy enemy positions at (710563) and (708562) and for the purpose of

OPERATIONS SUMMARY 397TH INFANTRY REGIMENT (Continued)

taking prisoners. The mission was accomplished and the positions were found unoccupied. The patrol located and cut telephone wires to the location of the enemy OP on Hill 310. Except for D Company suffering considerable enemy mortar and artillery fire, there was no other enemy activity.

2nd Bn: Continued on the Regimental Reserve Line consolidating, adjusting and improving its positions and defending along its present front lines.

3rd Bn: Established a listening post which was abandoned when friendly mortar fire was called for in the area of enemy movement and fell into the listening post wounding three (3) men. Searchlights were used to evacuate the casualties. Very little enemy activity was observed during the day.

WEATHER: Clear. Visibility Fair.

PRISONERS: None (To date 823)

REINFORCEMENTS: None

CASUALTIES: EM – 2 SWA.

MARCH 13

1st Bn: Moved to Bining, being relieved by elements of the 324th Infantry where it was quartered in houses throughout the town. The companies were strafed and suffered some slight enemy artillery with no attendant casualties.

2nd Bn: Remained on the Regimental Reserve Line and was strafed by six (6) enemy planes at 1530. Friendly anti-aircraft repelled the attack. It conducted active patrolling, one of which from (744536) heard motor noises which seemed to come from direction of Nousseviller. However, no vehicles were seen. The patrol heard personnel moving and noise of a hand-drawn cart in draw (747555).

3rd Bn: Moved from Holbach to Rohrbach and relieved the elements of the 324th Infantry. Companies were strafed at Rohrbach by enemy planes.

OPERATIONS SUMMARY 397TH INFANTRY REGIMENT (Continued)

WEATHER: Clear. Visibility fair.

PRISONERS: None (To date 823)

REINFORCEMENTS: 9 newly commissioned officers.

CASUALTIES: EM – 1 LWA

MARCH 14

1st Bn: After being relieved in its positions by elements of the 324th Infantry, assembled in the vicinity of Bining. A Company left Bining after 1350 travelling seven (7) miles to Hottviller. B Company left Bining and moved to Hottviller. C Company left the French garrison in Bining and went to Hottviller, D Company was billeted in Hottviller after having left Bining earlier in the period.

2nd Bn: Continued to occupy defensive positions with no enemy activity reported. Patrol set up listening post in the vicinity of (746532) which neither heard nor saw enemy activity.

3rd Bn: Upon completion of relief by elements of the 324th Infantry, assembled at Rohrbach.

WEATHER: Clear. Visibility good.

PRISONERS: None (To date 823)

REINFORCEMENTS: None

CASUALTIES: None

MARCH 15

1st Bn: Led the Regimental attack, crossing the line of departure at 0500. A Company jumped off in attack at 0500, leaving Hottviller, moving forward and reaching its initial objective at 0850. It suffered heavy artillery and mortar fire with little small arms resistance. Company jumped off again at 1200 and continued moving forward. B Company reached its objective NE

OPERATIONS SUMMARY 397TH INFANTRY REGIMENT (Continued)

of Schorbach at 0900. It received enemy artillery fire from woods near Schorbach. Company jumped off again at 1200 receiving very little small arms fire. C Company was in Battalion reserve and was committed at 0630, taking its objective at 0900 with light enemy resistance. Jumped off again at 1200 encountering heavy artillery barrage and mines with troops digging in for the night. D Company reached its initial objective at 0900. Its platoons were attached to rifle companies, though it met little opposition it sustained heavy casualties through mines of the Schu, Box and Toft variety. The company jumped off again at 1230 and reached Hottviller at 1730.

2nd Bn: Except for E Company, remained in assembly area in the vicinity of Hottviller. E Company was committed at 0500 and went into the attack, attaining its objective NE of Hottviller encountering many mines in the section. Several prisoners were taken.

3rd Bn: Advanced in the rear of 1st Battalion from Rohrbach and seized Schorbach. I Company remained in Schorbach as I and L Companies took up blocking positions to secure the town. Light enemy resistance was encountered throughout the period, however, the roads were poor and S mines and foot mines slowed the forward advance of the company.

CANNON CO: Fired fifty-three (53) rounds of HE for check point. It had the mission to protect the Regimental left flank against enemy mechanized vehicles. 1st and 2nd platoons took up positions E. of Hottviller suffering four (4) casualties. The vicinity near the CP was bombed and strafed by an unidentified plane.

325TH ENGRS CO A: Filled crater at (732538) swept roads clear of mines from (727533), (761533) and from (727535) to cross-road (740524) and (740539).

OPERATIONS SUMMARY 397TH INFANTRY REGIMENT (Continued)

WEATHER: Clear. Visibility good.

PRISONERS: 36 (To date 859)

REINFORCEMENTS: None

CASUALTIES: Off – 3 SWA; 1 LIA. EM – 7 KIA; 1 MIA; 13 SWA; 23 LWA, 3 LIA.

MARCH 16

1st Bn: Held the high ground in the vicinity of (785543) at Schorbach. The elements of the Battalion remained in Schorbach continuing to dig in, improving its foxholes and suffering heavy artillery and mortar barrages with no resultant casualties.

2nd Bn: Was rejoined by E Company after the latter's release by K Company and passed through the 1st Battalion positions meeting small arms resistance from (787537) and (787533). F Company jumped off at 0715 reaching its objective at 1330 on Hill 368, sustaining casualties. G Company left Hottviller at 0300 heading E. and passing through Schorbach at 0500 reaching the line of departure at base of hill at 0745. M Company left Hottviller in support of Battalion at 0315 and was in Le Gendersberg where it stopped to reorganize.

3rd Bn: Continued to block to the N and NE. I Company dispatched reconnaissance patrol taking many prisoners during the attack on Schorbach. K Company remained on top of hill overlooking Schorbach and suffered some enemy mortar and rocket gun fire with no resultant casualties. L Company remained in Schorbach receiving artillery and mortar fire. M Company remained in position N. of town of Schorbach, encountering some mine fields.

CANNON CO: Fired fifty-one (51) rounds of HE at vehicles and for harassing.

ANTITANK CO: Continued to give anti-mechanized protection for the Regimental left flank in Schorbach.

OPERATIONS SUMMARY 397TH INFANTRY REGIMENT (Continued)

325TH ENGRS CO A: Cleared positions for artillery, swept roads from (737536) (785538) and (739524) to (737536), reported blown culvert (785534), and built by-pass around a blown bridge (785531).

WEATHER: Clear. Visibility good.

PRISONERS: 11 (To date 870)

REINFORCEMENTS: None

CASUALTIES: EM – 2 KIA; 3 SWA; 8 LWA.

MARCH 17

1st Bn: Resumed attack to seize high ground N and NE of Breidenbach. A Company left Schorbach, crossing line of departure at 0900 and moved across country on open road meeting no enemy resistance until pinned down by enemy fire at Walschbronn. It halted at 1610 and dug in. B Company jumped off in attack at 0900 with the objective of taking Walschbronn, and encountering little artillery fire and some small arms fire just outside the town. C Company jumped off at 0900 and marched for six and a half (6½) miles encountering no enemy resistance until reaching Walschbronn.

2nd Bn: Upon release by the 2nd Battalion of the 398th, moved back to Regimental reserve and advanced to the N., closing in to assembly area in the vicinity of Waldhausen.

3rd Bn: Jumped off at 0900 from lines N. of Behorbach and seized Bridenbach, encountering occasional sniper fire. The Battalion advanced to the N and cleared Dorst of occasional sniper fire.

WEATHER: Cloudy. Visibility fair.

PRISONERS: 6 (To date 876)

REINFORCEMENTS: None

CASUALTIES: EM – 1 SWA; 5 LWA.

OPERATIONS SUMMARY 397TH INFANTRY REGIMENT (Continued)

MARCH 18

1st Bn: Consolidated and adjusted its positions seized during the previous period, with the rifle companies remaining in Walschbronn and headquarters at Waldhausen. There was no enemy action and no casualties.

2nd Bn: Was in Regimental Reserve and awaited orders. The elements of the Battalion fruitfully applied themselves during this period in preparing by cleaning, resting, repairing equipment, and maintaining road-blocks.

3rd Bn: Conducted aggressive patrolling in addition to consolidating and adjusting the newly seized positions. Its headquarters were moved from positions in Bridenbach to Dorst.

CANNON CO: Left Schorbach and travelled seven (7) miles NE to Waldhausen. It fired fourteen (14) rounds of HE at possible enemy troops and to register check points.

WEATHER: Cloudy. Visibility fair.

PRISONERS: 4 (To date 880)

REINFORCEMENTS: None

CASUALTIES: EM – 1 SWA; 1 LWA.

MARCH 19

1st Bn: Conducted aggressive patrolling and dispatched one to the town of Kroppen, finding nineteen (19) civilians there and taking two (2) stragglers. The patrol remained there but could observe no other enemy activity in the vicinity. The Battalion experienced a comparative lull during which time it received hot meals, rested and generally cleaned up.

2nd Bn: Was in Waldhausen on the Regimental Reserve Line. E Company manned road-blocks S. of Wald. F Company consumed period in caring for the physical needs of the men and in cleaning weapons. G Company manned road-blocks.

OPERATIONS SUMMARY 397TH INFANTRY REGIMENT (Continued)

3rd Bn: Was in a state of comparative ease merely continuing to improve and adjust its positions and conduct some patrolling. I Company, in Dorst, sent out patrol to Walschhausen. K Company advanced to positions N. and NE. of Riedelberg. L and M Companies remained in Dorst.

CANNON CO: fire thirty-three (33) rounds of HE for registration point.

WEATHER: Clear. Visibility fair.

PRISONERS: 2 (To date 882)

REINFORCEMENTS: None

CASUALTIES: None

MARCH 20

1st Bn: Received occasional enemy mortar and artillery fire which produced no casualties. G Company jumped off at 1930 from Walschbronn and met no enemy resistance in its march to Bottenbach from where the Seigfried Line hovered in sight. D Company remained in Walschbronn.

2nd Bn: Was relieved by the 66th Infantry at 1800, crossing the IP at 1850 and arriving at Scgweyen [Schweyen]. G Company manned road blocks near Schweyen suffering enemy battery fire to land near it.

3rd Bn: Received automatic weapons fire at (796665) while in the process of relieving elements of the 106th Cavalry Group in its positions.

CANNON CO: Moved three (3) guns to Dorst 3 kilometers N of Wald. It fired eight (8) rounds of HE for registration.

WEATHER: Clear. Visibility Fair.

PRISONERS: None (To date 882)

REINFORCEMENTS: EM - 2

CASUALTIES: Off - 1 LWA. EM - 2 MIA; 1 DOW; 2 SWA; 4 LWA.

OPERATIONS SUMMARY 397TH INFANTRY REGIMENT (Continued)

MARCH 21

1st Bn: Was relieved in its position by the 1st Battalion of the 66th Infantry without incident. Upon completion of this relief at 2250, the elements of the Battalion moved to the assembly areas in Walschbronn. The period was spent in almost complete relaxation with no enemy action noted.

2nd Bn: Moved from its assembly area in Breidenbach to Schweyen, and consumed the period in orientation and current Division, Corps, Army and Western Front offensive.

3rd Bn: Relieved in its positions by the 3rd Battalion of the 66th Infantry, and moved to assembly areas in Rolbing and Dorst. Some enemy artillery was received in its sector.

CANNON CO: Fired twenty-five (25) rounds of HE at enemy OP.

WEATHER: Clear. Visibility excellent.

PRISONERS: None (To date 882)

REINFORCEMENTS: None

CASUALTIES: EM – 1 LWA.

MARCH 22

MAP REFERENCE: GERMANY 1/50,000

1st Bn: Continued in its assembly area in Walschbronn encountering no enemy action, and moved by shuttle to assembly area in Petersburg.

2nd Bn: Left Schweyen by tanks and motors as part of a task force and crossed the line of departure at 0930. Its advance was impeded by blown out bridges and bomb craters. It crossed the border into Germany at 1215 and through the Siegfried Line, but was halted outside of Pirmasons in Germany (907683). Several tanks went on to the next town and later returned. At 2230 the troops returned to Pirmasons and were bill-

OPERATIONS SUMMARY 397TH INFANTRY REGIMENT (Continued)

-ited in German barracks for the night. Few enemy were encountered throughout the distance of twenty-eight (28) miles that had been travelled. Many prisoners were taken enroute.

3rd Bn: Moved by shuttle to reach assembly area Fehrbach and had no contact with the enemy. The Battalion became attached to the 21st Corps as of 0900.

WEATHER: Clear. Visibility excellent.

PRISONERS: 21 (To date 903)

REINFORCEMENTS: None

CASUALTIES: None

MARCH 23

MAP REFERENCE:

GERMANY 1/100,000

1st Bn: Left town of Petersberg by truck to the town of Alsheim-Gronau, travelling a distance of fifty-two (52) miles, and there were billeted to await further orders.

2nd Bn: Led the Regimental advance to the East and took up blocking positions to the South. Many enemy vehicles and dead horses were observed strewn on the side of the road due to recent air attacks. Many prisoners were taken.

3rd Bn: No contact whatever with the enemy, and moved its elements from Fehrbach to Neustadt, closing in at 1800.

WEATHER: Clear. Visibility excellent.

PRISONERS: 46 (To date 949)

REINFORCEMENTS: None

CASUALTIES: None

OPERATIONS SUMMARY 397TH INFANTRY REGIMENT (Continued)

MARCH 24

1st Bn: Moved from Alsheim-Gronau to the town of Optau, Germany, a distance of fifteen (15) miles, and took up defensive positions east of the town about 1,000 yards. All elements of the Battalion dug in in those defensive positions for the period.

2nd Bn: Reverted to Regimental control at 1800, after having been attached to the 399th Infantry at 0930. It moved from its different areas, all to Schifferstadt. At about 1800 the companies shuttled to Aggersheim and were billeted in homes for the night.

3rd Bn: Moved by tactical transportation to Ludwigschafen. All companies encountered enemy artillery, mortar and sniper fire.

CANNON CO: Fired thirty-four (34) rounds of HE for registration and at enemy vehicles and troops.

WEATHER: Clear. Visibility excellent

PRISONERS: 6 (To date 955)

REINFORCEMENTS: None

CASUALTIES: EM – 1 LWA.

MARCH 25

1st Bn: Remained in its positions as of yesterday, patrolling the west bank of the Rhine River, experiencing no enemy action. Civilians were evacuated to areas in the town not occupied by our military installations. Light 105mm artillery fire was suffered in the 1st Battalion sector throughout the period.

2nd Bn: Remained in Regimental Reserve in the vicinity of Oggersheim maintaining road blocks on roads running west from Ludwigschafen. No enemy activity was reported and the troops were billeted in houses in Oggersheim.

OPERATIONS SUMMARY 397TH INFANTRY REGIMENT (Continued)

3rd Bn: Remained in defensive positions and patrolled the west bank of the Rhine searching for snipers, enemy soldiers and hidden weapons. There was some slight enemy mortar, artillery and sniper fire, but otherwise very little enemy activity.

CANNON CO: Left its old positions in Studernheim and moved to Oppau, and fired effective missions (66 rounds of HE) at enemy personnel, oil tanks, vehicles and other installations.

WEATHER: Clear. Visibility excellent.

PRISONERS: 17 (to date 972)

REINFORCEMENTS: None.

CASUALTIES: EM – 1 MIA.

MARCH 26

1st Bn: Moved all its elements to Eppstein, Germany and at 1800 its relief by the 66th Infantry was completed. The Battalion took up its quartering in Eppstein awaiting further orders. There was some artillery fire received with no resultant casualties.

2nd Bn: Remained in regimental Reserve maintaining road-blocks on roads running west from Ludwigshafen.

3rd Bn: Was relieved and went to Eppstein (430010). Estimated twenty (20) rounds of 80 mm mortar was received in its sector resulting in two (2) casualties.

WEATHER: Clear. Visibility good.

PRISONERS: 22 (To date 994)

REINFORCEMENTS: None

CASUALTIES: Off – 1 LWA. EM – 1 SWA.

OPERATIONS SUMMARY 397TH INFANTRY REGIMENT (Continued)

MARCH 27

1st Bn: Consumed the period in complete relaxation with no enemy action noted as it remained in defensive positions in Eppstein.

2nd Bn: Continued in Regimental Reserve. Relief completed by 66th Infantry at 0600. Battalion remained in the assembly area in the vicinity of Oggersheim. All its elements engaged in training, orientation, and recreation activities throughout the period.

3rd Bn: Was completely relieved and assembled in Eppstein. All its elements too took advantage of the period to conduct training, orientation, and recreation programs

WEATHER: Clear. Visibility fair.

PRISONERS: None (To date 994)

REINFORCEMENTS: None.

CASUALTIES: None.

MARCH 28

1st Bn: Continued a status quo as of yesterday, and consumed the period in showing, seeing a movie, indulging in mass athletics and caring for and generally cleaning its equipment. There was no enemy activity whatever. Dental inspection was conducted and Red Cross visited with its girl personnel and doughnuts for the men.

2nd Bn: Remained in Regimental Reserve and continued in the same position as of yesterday. Elements of the Battalion indulged in practice march, squad tactics, training generally and having orientation class and classes on weapons.

3rd Bn: Took time out for lectures on looting and physical hygiene, as

OPERATIONS SUMMARY 397TH INFANTRY REGIMENT (Continued)

well as orientation and recreation activities. Company I maintained a road-block in Eppstein and K Company sent out squad patrols.

WEATHER: Clear. Visibility excellent.

PRISONERS: None (To date 994)

REINFORCEMENTS: 1 newly commissioned officer.

CASUALTIES: None.

MARCH 29

1st Bn: Continued in their assembly area and consumed the period in the cleaning of equipment, complying with the training schedule, indulging in recreational activities and in receiving the very welcome contributions from the Red Cross girls in the form of hot coffee and doughnuts.

2nd Bn: Remained in reserve and performed in very little fashion other than 1st Battalion, engaging in training, orientation and recreation activities throughout the period.

3rd Bn: Had no change either in its situation or positions and there was no enemy activity reported. Certain elements of the Battalion maintained road-blocks and posted security patrols. Otherwise it engaged in training, orientation and recreation.

WEATHER: Clear. Visibility poor.

PRISONERS: 1 (To date 995)

REINFORCEMENTS: None

CASUALTIES: None

MARCH 30

All elements of the Regiment continued to perform exactly as set forth on 29 March.

WEATHER: Cloudy. Visibility fair.

OPERATIONS SUMMARY 397TH INFANTRY REGIMENT (Continued)

PRISONERS: 2 (To date 997)
REINFORCEMENTS: None
CASUALTIES: None

MARCH 31

1st Bn: Left Eppstein moving by motor to Plankstadt and crossing the Rhine River via pontoon bridge. The troops were billeted in homes in Plankstadt.

2nd Bn: Remained in Regimental Reserve and left Oggersheim in tanks and trucks, crossing the Rhine at Eppelsheim. The troops were billeted in homes there.

3rd Bn: Left Eppstein in a truck convoy and took up positions in the town of Plankstadt. Elements of the Battalion relieved elements of the 1st Battalion 254th Infantry in the Regimental zone.

WEATHER: Cloudy. Visibility fair.
PRISONERS: 25 (To date 1022)
REINFORCEMENTS: None
CASUALTIES: None