

**OPERATIONS
OF THE
398TH INFANTRY REGIMENT
100TH INFANTRY DIVISION**

November, 1944 – April, 1945

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Wednesday 1 November 1944

The 398th Infantry, 100th Infantry Division, was enroute by motor and rail from Septemes, France to a forward assembly area in the vicinity of St Gorgon, France.

The 100th Infantry Division was formally activated 15 November 1942. The Commanding General was Major General W. A. Burress. The Assistant Division Commander was Brigadier General M. E. Miller. General Burress and General Miller, as of this date, are still commanding the Division.

Regimental Stations: 15 Nov 1942 to 9 Nov 1943--Ft. Jackson, S.C.
10 Nov 1943 to 16 Jan. 1944--Tennessee Maneuver Area
17 Jan 1944 to 25 Sept 1944--Ft. Bragg, N. C.
26 Sept. 1944 to 5 Oct 1944--Camp Kilmer, N.J.
6 Oct 1944 to 20 Oct 1944--U S S Gen Wm H. Gordon
21 Oct 1944 to 31 Oct 1944--Septemes, France

Regimental Commanders: 15 Nov 1942 to 18 May 1944--Col. R. E. Duff
19 May 1944 to 30 June 1944 --Lt. Col. T. L. Leigh
1 July 1944 to 5 Sep 1944 --Col. E. E. Keatley

On 6 Sept 1944 Col. N. I. Fooks assumed command.

The command as of this date is as follows:

Commanding Officer	: Col N. I. Fooks
Executive Officer	: Lt Col W. E. Moses
S-1	: Capt E. J. Stone
S-2	: Maj M. G. Gilman
S-3	: Maj R. H. Whitus
S-4	: Capt F. L. Parks
Regtl Surgeon	: Maj A. E. Pollock
Regtl Dental O	: Capt. S. Herman
Personnel O	: Capt E. D. Hollister, Jr.
CO Hq Co	: Capt L. Hertzberg
CO AT Co	: P. W. Jedele, Capt
CO Cn Co	: Capt L. D. Scarborough
CO Sv Co	: 1st Lt. C. G. Day
CO 1st Bn	: Lt Col T. L. Leigh
Ex O 1st Bn	: Maj D. B. Odell
CO Co A	: Capt C. Kierniesky
CO Co B	: Capt J. J. McCarthy
CO Co C	: Capt J. R. Holmes
CO Co D	: Capt P. W. Grigsby
CO 2nd Bn	: Lt Col H. C. Weisel
Ex O 2nd Bn	: Maj J. H. Kirkland
CO Co E	: Capt T. H. Garahan
CO Co F	: Capt H. D. Smith
CO Co G	: Capt E. K. Meade
CO Co H	: Capt E. B. Bowen
CO 3rd Bn	: Lt Col P. E. Stayton
Ex O 3rd Bn	: Maj E. L. Janes
CO Co I	: Capt W. A. Clepper

CO Co K : Capt R. L. Jones
CO Co L : Capt R. E. Brinkerhoff
CO Co M : Capt W. F. Ganeau

2 Nov 44

The Regiment closed into its area this date.

3 Nov 44

Preparations were made for the Regiment to move up to the front.

4 Nov 44

Preparations continued.

5 Nov 44

The 1st Battalion was attached to the 157th Infantry, 45th Div. The Battalion took its place on the lines in the vicinity NE of St Benoit. It relieved the 2nd Battalion, 157th Inf. Company C moved into combat position in vicinity of Raon L'Etape. Company A moved into position in vicinity of Bois de Repy.

6 Nov 44

Weather: Rain

The 3rd Battalion was attached to the 180th Infantry, 45th Div. The Battalion relieved the 3rd Bn, 180th Inf and took its position to the left of 1st Bn, 398th Inf along the same in the vicinity of St Barbe. Company D moved into vicinity of Raon L'Etape. Company C had reconnaissance patrols in vicinity of Raon L'Etape but no contact was made with the enemy. Company B made contact with the enemy at 1630 at Rochers de Faucompierre on Plateau des Leches. No casualties.

7 Nov 44

Weather: Rain and snow

Cannon Co left St Gorgon and moved into an area SW of Raon L'Etape. Fired first round at 1642. The Co relieved Cn Co, 180th Inf. AT Co moved into St Benoit at 1030 and set up its CP in town. Relieved AT Co, 180th Inf. The 2nd Bn moved up to a rear assembly area 2½ miles NE of St Benoit along the Rambervillers--Raon L'Etape highway. They were preparing to relieve the 1st Bn, 180th Inf, 45th Div. The 1st Bn occupied the greater part of forward ridge of Rochers de Faucon Pierre D'Plateau ses Loches. Co C was in advance supported by Co A. Small enemy patrols encountered. No casualties suffered.

171st FA Bn in direct support. 375th FA Bn supporting fires for the 171st FA Bn.

Chemical Troops: Company A (less 1 platoon) 83rd Chemical Bn in general support.

8 Nov 44

Weather: Cold and rainy.

Visibility: Fair until 1600.

Rg Hq: Left the vic of St Gorgon and moved to vic of St Benoit.

AT Co: Relieved AT Co, 180th Inf on line in vic of St Benoit.

The 2nd Bn relieved the 1st Bn, 180th Inf and took its position about five kilometers SW of Raon L'Etape, along the Rambervillers--Raon L'Etape Highway. The three battalions were now abreast of each other. The 1st Bn was on the right flank SE of the highway. The 2nd Bn was in the center, also SE of the highway. The 3rd Bn was on the right flank, NW of the highway. At 2000, this date, all battalions were relieved from 45th Div control and Col Fooks, CO, assumed command of the Regiment intact.

1st Bn: The 1st Bn attacked the ridge with 345-744 as objective at 0830. Co C was in assault, Co A in reserve and Cos B and D in rear area. At 1100 Co C encountered enemy machine gun fire. Terrain difficulties and fire prevented further movement. In the afternoon Co C was hit by artillery fire and suffered casualties. Late afternoon Regt ordered cancellation of Bn mission of taking hill; Co C returned to rear area leaving Co A in covering position at 322-734. All casualties were in Co C. They included 1 O WIA, 10 EM WIA, 1 EM KIA, & 1 EM MIA.

2nd Bn: See above.

3rd Bn: Cos K & L received intermittent artillery fire throughout the day.

171st FA Bn: in direct support.

Chemical Troops: Co A (- 1 plat) 83rd Chem Bn in general support.

9 Nov 44

Weather: Rain and snow.

Visibility: Poor.

Roads: Increasingly impassable.

Sv Co: Moved into the town of Bru.

Cn Co: Located at 29400-74700 (in vicinity of Bru). Completed 6 fire missions with the possible destruction of bridge SW of Raon L'Etape.

1st Bn: CP 5/8 miles SW Raon L'Etape (297-753). The Bn relieved 2 Bns 399th Inf. Co A, less 1 plat, and Co C were still holding saddle positions at 322-754 (Bois de Repy) with one platoon I & R ahead.

2nd Bn: Throughout the day the Bn received heavy arty fire.

3rd Bn: Co M engaged the enemy with no progress because of bad weather.

375th FA BN: In direct support.

83rd Cml Bn: In general support.

10 Nov 44

Weather: Rain and snow.

Visibility: Good.

Rg Hqs: No change.

Sv Co: No change.

AT Co: No change.

Cn Co: No change.

1st Bn: Bn CP displaced forward from 298-753 to 317-742. Cos B & C supported by D Co and 1 pltn A Co pushed forward from established lines north of Etival & attacked easterly, entered and took the town of Etival. Bn suffered 8 casualties all in Co C--3 dead and five wounded; in addition FO fr arty atchd to Co C was killed. All casualties caused by mines, booby traps, or arty and mortar.

2nd Bn: Remained in stable position throughout the day. Capt Meade, CO Co G, was wounded by Shu mine. Lt. Brandyberry assumed command of the Co.

3rd Bn: Remained stable throughout the period with heavy arty fire falling in their area.

375th FA BN: In direct support.

83rd Cml Bn: Co A in general support.

11 Nov 44

Weather: Rain and snow.

Visibility: Fair.

Roads: Muddy.

Rg Hqs: CP located approximately 2 kms NE of St Benoit.

Cn Co: Fired on Germans assembling NW of Raon L'Etape.

1st Bn: Bn holding line running north and south beyond and through town of Etival. Co B on right flank. Co C in the center, and Co A on the left. There was heavy and intermittent arty and mortar fire on the bn during the day.

2nd Bn: Moved out to occupy ground on the right flank of 1st Bn. Bn occupied high ground to the right of 1st Bn and dug in. Lt Einsman reld fr asgmt Co H and assigned as CO Co G. Lt Danner died in the aid station from wounds that were inflicted by mines. He was the first officer of the Regiment to be killed in action.

3rd Bn: Remained stable with no change in position.

375th FA Bn: In direct support.

83rd Cml Bn: Co A in general support.

VI Corps and 3rd Div Arty were used to a great advantage in getting our B and C Cos into positions during this period. Regtl Cn Co also used to assist in this mission.

12 Nov 44

Weather: Snowy.

Visibility: Poor.

Roads: Muddy.

1st Bn: Remained stable throughout the day. Better positions were prepared.

2nd Bn: CP located four miles N of Bru. Bn extended positions to their left flank and to the East. Bn ordered fire 57mm guns, 50 cal MGs, and mortars on Raon L 'Etape.

3rd Bn: Moved N of Baccarat in a position of Div reserve. They relieved 3rd Bn, 399th Inf.

375th FA Bn: In direct support.

13 Nov 44

Weather: Snow and cold.

Visibility: Fair.

Roads: Muddy.

1st Bn: Prepared plans of fire to their front.

2nd Bn: Prepared plans of fire to their front.

3rd Bn: In defensive position of bridgehead in vic of Baccarat.

375th FA Bn: In direct support.

14 Nov 44

Weather: Snow and rain. Temperature mild.

Visibility: Poor.

1st Bn: Bn CP still located 3500 yds west of Etival. Bn continued occupation of Pajalle and Etival with little activity beyond improving positions. Enemy artillery hit Cos B & C heavily in early afternoon inflicting no casualties.

2nd Bn: Remained stable. Bn reported that the roads to Raon L 'Etape were mined heavily.

3rd Bn: No change.

375th FA Bn: In direct support.

15 Nov 44

Weather: Cold.

Visibility: Fair.

1st Bn: Relieved of front line position.

2nd Bn: Remained in position during period. F Co moved into Baccarat to relieve Co of 3rd Bn which was patrolling Baccarat. 100 Rcn Trps under 2nd Bn command was given mission to patrol the gap between 2nd Bn 398th Inf and 1st Bn 397th Inf on its left. 2nd Bn, 398th Inf, and 100 Rcn Trps reverted to Div control.

3rd Bn: Remained stable.

AT Co: 1 pltn moved into Baccarat to establish road block around town.

375th FA Bn: In direct support.

16 Nov 44

Weather: Cold.

Visibility: Fair.

Rg Hqs: Moved by motor to position 1¼ miles NE Bertrichamps.

Sv Co: Moved by motor to Baccarat.

AT Co: Moved into Bertrichamps.

Cn Co: Moved into Bertrichamps.

1st Bn: Moved by motor and on foot to vic of Bertrichamps.

2nd Bn: No change.

3rd Bn: Moved to new location east of Bertrichamps. Relieved 3rd Bn, 399th Inf. Received occasional arty and mortar fire. Atchd to 399th Inf.

17 Nov 44

Weather: Mild.

Visibility: Good.

1st Bn: At 0730 Bn attacked fr line of departure 346-817, objective being vic 366-817, after arriving at base of objective 365-818 at 1300. Regt changed objective and Bn moved without incident to assembly area at 360-806. Bn CP remained in position and at 1600 was strafed by 5 enemy planes. One officer, Capt Moyka, Bn S-3, was wounded in the attack.

2nd Bn: Moved into the vic of Clairupt. The Bn was defending ridge SW of Raon L'Etape.

3rd Bn: Moved directly in rear of 1st Bn and dug in for the night. Plans were prepared to attack the next morning.

18 Nov 44

Weather: Fair and Cold.

Visibility: Good.

1st Bn: Bn attacked at 0900 to make crossing of Meurthe River in order to seize and occupy high ground SE of Raon L'Etape. A Co led the atk and met plenty of opposition. Bn failed to make crossing at original point and moved W about 500 yds and succeeded in making the crossing. At 1800 entire A Co was on the other side of the stream and the remainder of Bn dug in at positions then held. A Co sent out patrols to feel out the eny.

2nd Bn: Bn remained in assembly area as Regtl Reserve. E & F Cos reverted to Bn control during the period.

3rd Bn: Bn remained in assembly area during the period and sent K Co to point to be the first company of the Bn which will cross after 1st Bn is on the other side. Bn area received eny mortar and arty fire during the period.

Attached Trps: Tanks: 2 pltns Co D 753D TK Bn, Chemical Trps: Co C 83D Cml Bn.

19 Nov 44

Weather: Partly cloudy.

Visibility: Good.

1st Bn: Bn jumped off 0600A vic 372800 with A Co leading across LA PLAINE RIVER at 365800 with mission to seize and secure Hill 450 at via 380794; Hill 554 vic 382788; Hill 603 vic 372283; Hill 578 vic 368775 in succession. Hill 450 was taken by A Co and advance continued to Hill 554 followed by C & B Cos. Mission was changed 1130A to continue advance to SE to seize high ground in vic 382780 and town ST Prayel at vic 381771. Advance was continued to the SE. It terminated day's operation with B Co at Hill 450 outposting general line from 375800 SE to 381792, C Co from vic Hill 554 outposting line from 381792 SE to high ground at 383784, A Co from high ground 383782 outposting line extending from 383784 to 385779. All Cos in contact, with A Co controlling valley and road leading to ST PRAYEL. Today's operation was terminated in the above position with stiff eny opposition throughout the day. There were heavy casualties.

2nd Bn: Leading elements crossed LA PLAINE RIVER 365800 at 1310 with G Co leading--pushed forward to high ground vic 370794 followed by Cos E & F in column and continued advance to the S & E, terminating day's opn with G Co occupying Hill 603 at via 372783, F Co high ground vic 371792, E Co at 371794. Strongest eny opposition vic Hill 603 with the exception of scattered arty, mortar, and sniper fire throughout the day. Bn mission to advance to the S & E to assist in the capture of Div obj MOYENMOUTIER vic 393768.

3rd Bn: Leading elements crossed LA PLAINE RIVER 365800 at 0705A with the mission of securing high ground at 370794; Hill 362 vic 365791; Hill 306 vic 356784 with K Co leading, I & L in column. K Co took 1st and 2nd obj and advanced on Hill 306 and met stiff eny opposition; I & L followed on Hill 362. Mission was changed at 1130A to advance to the S, seize Hill 578 vic 368775; high ground NE of RAVINES at vic 375765 and assist in the capture of Div obj MOYENMOUTIER vic 393768. At the time mission was changed K Co made contact with the eny on Hill 306. I Co executed change of direction from Hill 362 and advanced to SE to Hill 578. End of day's opn Co K vic 367777, Co I vic 368780, Co L vic 368784. Eny resistance was strong throughout the day. Advance was made under continuous harassing arty, mortar, and sniper fire.

General: No mines or booby traps were encountered throughout the day's operation. Woods vic of Hill 538 vic 370810 SE to LA PLAINE RIVER and high ground in Regt zone of action SE of RAON L'ETAPE infested by eny snipers. Continuous patrolling to the front and flanks by all units.

Atchd Units: FA: 375th FA Bn in direct support. Armored Forces: Co A 753rd Tk Bn (less 1 plat), 1 plat Co D; & 1 plat Co B, 636th TD Bn. Engrs: Co B, 325th Engr Bn in direct support.

Approximately 75 prisoners taken during the day's operation.

20 Nov 44

Weather: Rain.

Visibility: Fair.

Roads: Muddy.

Rg Hqs: Moved to vic of Raon L'Etape.

AT Co: Moved to vic of Raon L'Etape.

Cn Co: Moved to vic of Raon L'Etape.

1st Bn: Bn continued mission of protecting Regt left flank by readjusting lines from vic 375800 to 385780 with B Co vic Hill 450, 380794, C Co vic Hill 554, 383790, A Co vic high ground, 384783. Eny activity was light with the harassment of scattered arty and mortar fire and snipers throughout the area.

2nd Bn: Bn continued atk at 0705 to the SE, E Co leading, F and G Cos each to the rear. Advance continued to vic of 342782 and was held up by strong eny resistance from vic 385780 and 382770 with observed arty and mortar fire falling on their positions. Operations ended with E Co at 387780, F Co 379780, G Co 372783. Patrolling continued to the flanks and front throughout the night.

3rd Bn: Bn continued atk to the SE from vic Hill 578 vic 369775 with I Co & L Co leading, I Co on right. Advance was stopped by strong any counterattack from SE and E vic 370770. Counterattack was repelled and atk continued. Adv was stopped in vic of 371769 by wnd eny counterattack from SE. Counterattack was repelled about 1600. Fighting was heavy throughout the day with continuous observed arty and mortar fire. Operations for the day ended with I Co vic 369769, L Co vic 371770, K Co vic Hill 578, 369775; patrolling continued to the front and flanks throughout the night. Woods in 3rd Bn area and BOIS DU GRAND FAYS infested with snipers. Casualties heavy.

Atchd Units: 375th FA Bn in D/S; Co B, 325th Engr Bn D/S; Co B, 325th Med Bn. Operations of Med Bn SUPERIOR.

21 Nov 44

Weather: Cool.

Visibility: Fair.

Regt continues atk at 0645 with mission of seizing high ground 390768 N of MOYENMOUTIER vic 390718.

1st Bn: Bn atchd to 399th Inf and continued to protect Regtl left flank. Scattered arty fell in the early morning.

2nd Bn: Bn received orders to occupy assembly area vic SW of Check Point B. No eny activity during this period.

Atchd Units: 375th FA Bn D/S; Co B 325 Engr Bn D/S; Co B 325 Med Bn. Operations of Med Bn SUPERIOR.

3rd Bn: Moved to new location. Bn continued atks and was billeted in town of MOYENMOUTIER. No eny resistance encountered. Showers and clean clothing were given to the greater part of the Bn.

22 Nov 44

Weather: Cool and rain.

Visibility: Fair.

Rg Hqs: Moved to via MOYENMOUTIER.

AT Co: Moved to vic MOYENMOUTIER.

Cn Co: Moved to ST PRAYEL.

1st Bn: Bn atchd to 117 Rcn Trps as of 1100. Continued protecting left flank in position from vic 375800 to 385780 with Co B vic Hill 450, 380794, Co C vic Hill 554, 383790, Co A vic high ground 384783. Scattered arty fell during the night.

2nd Bn: Bn part of task force "Fooks". Moved by motors toward ST BLAISE. Movement was halted temporarily by road blocks, mines and mortar fire vic SENONES.

3rd Bn: Bn was attached to 397th Inf as of 1300. Bn moved from MOYENMOUTIER toward SENONES. 3rd Bn reached SENONES without opposition.

AT Co outposted Hill N of MOYENMOUTIER against snipers firing into FA position and MOYENMOUTIER.

Atchd Units: 375th FA Bn D/S; Co B 325th Engrs Bn D/S; Co B 325th Med Bn.

23 Nov 44

Weather: Rain and cold.

Visibility: Poor.

Rg Hqs: Moved to vic LE VERMONT. Roads wet and muddy.

1st Bn: Bn atchd to 117th Cav Rcn Sq with mission of covering ground E of RAON L'ETAPE. Bn went to LA TOUCHE for showers and clean clothing.

2nd & 3rd Bns: Bns remained in assembly area in vic of Le Vermont for period. Road networks to the E & W were patrolled.

Cn Co: Moved to SENONES.

1st Pltn Co B 325 Engrs removed 5 road blocks during the vic of 522772 to 527776.

Arty: 938 FA Bn D/S.

24 Nov 44

Weather: Cool and rainy.

Visibility: Poor.

Roads: Muddy.

Sv Co: Moved to LA PETITE RAON.

AT Co: Moved to SENONES.

1st Bn: Bn CP located at 364801 about to displace forward to follow movement of Bn troops in direction of town of CELLES SUR PLAINE. Bn cooperating with 117th Rcn Sq in general movement forward. Objective to maintain contact with eny. None reported in vicinity of town. No shelling and no casualties.

2nd & 3rd Bn: No change.

25 Nov 44

Feather: Rain and cold.

Visibility: Poor.

Rg Hqs: Moved to vic of SALM.

398th Inf (-1st Bn + 1st pltn Co B 325th Engr Bn) moved from vic of le VERMONT to PLAINE by marching and motors. 3rd Bn furnished adv guard for movement, and reached destination 1000A. Regt was given verbal orders to move forward to GRANDFONTAINE and take city and occupy high ground N & S of town. No eny resistance was contacted during the march. Regt was ordered to stop at Salm and outpost areas during occupancy N of town. Leading elements reached SALM at 1530 A and moved into assembly areas. Patrols for road reconnaissance were sent out to check road network. One patrol reached and captured 4 eny and civilians reported that the patrol was first American troops to reach this city. Regt remained in bivouac for remainder of period.

1st Bn: Bn moved into GRANDFONTAINE.

Atchd units: 938 FA Bn D/S; 1 pltn TDs.

26 Nov 44

Weather: Rain and cold.

Visibility: Poor.

Rg Hqs: Moved to vic of MOYENMOUTIER.

AT Co: Bivouaced at CHAMPANAY.

Cn Co: Bivouaced at CHAMPANAY.

1st Bn: Moved by foot to SCHIRMECK to join Regt. Movement halted upon orders fr Regt to prepare for movement to new concentration area. Bn closed in to new assembly area at ST BLAIZE.

2nd & 3rd Bns: Moved by marching E toward vic of RATHU. Regt halted movement in order to prepare for movement to new concentration area. 2nd Bn moved on to ST PRAYEL and 3rd Bn moved by motor to MOYENMOUTIER.

27 Nov 44

Weather: Cool.

Visibility: Good.

CT 398 plus Btry C 898 AAA moved by motor from vic ST BLAIZE, RAVINES and ST PRAYEL to assembly area vic SE SAARBURG. CP CT 8 opened at 1430 in TROIS FONTAINE. First shuttle of troops closed into new assembly area at 1645. Regt closed in same date.

28 Nov 44

Weather: Cold.

Visibility: Fair.

CT 8 remained in assembly area vic TROISFONTAINE. Care and cleaning of equipment, personal hygiene, and maintenance of vehicles were stressed throughout the day, and 2nd Bn was provided with showers and clean clothing.

Special Service activities were initiated. Movies were shown and beer and peanuts were sold to the men.

29 Nov 44

Weather: Rain.

Visibility: Poor.

CT 8 remained in assembly area vic TROISFONTAINES. Maintenance of vehicles, equipment and weapons, and personal appearance were stressed during the day. I & R Pltn and Quartering Party reconnoitered routes and assembly area vic VESCHEIN-BERLING-HANGVILLER.

30 Nov 44

Weather: Fair.

Visibility: Fair.

CT 8 remained in assembly area via TROISFONTAINES. Maintenance of equipment and weapons stressed throughout the period. Quartering party reconnoitered new assembly area vic of BUST, SCHOENBOURG. Personal hygiene and Special Service activities were also carried on through the period. Memorandum issued to all units of CT as to opns of 100th Inf Div and 398th Inf Regt during the push from RAON L'ETAPE to ST BLAIS.

Throughout the month of November the Regtl Personnel Section was stationed with the Div Rear Echelon in RAMBERVILLERS.

This concludes the first month of combat operations for the 398th Inf. The officers and men of the command have demonstrated their ability, fitness, and fortitude in meeting every task assigned them.