

# **OPERATIONS REPORTS**

**399th Infantry Regiment, 100th Division**

**1 November 1944 – 30 April 1945**

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NARRATIVE HISTORY IN COMBAT

OF THE

399TH INFANTRY REGIMENT

FRANCE

1 Nov. 44 to 30 Nov. 44 (Incl.)

Vol. 1 No. 1

Moving up to a forward assembly area within 24 hours after arrival at Fremifontaine (V640220) from Marseilles, the 399th Infantry Regiment at 0800 on the morning of November 2nd, began the relief of corresponding battalions of the 179th Infantry Regiment. By 1230, the movement was completed although the 179th did not relinquish its positions until 1700. By 1910, however, the 179th Infantry had completely withdrawn and command of the sector was given over to Col. Andrew C. Tychsen, CO, CT9, with the regiment operating under control of the 45th Infantry Division.

This first day of combat was spent in establishing contact patrols between "I" Co., 157th Infantry Regiment, on our left flank and "G" Co., 15th Infantry Regiment, on our right flank. Our lines extended generally on a NW to SE axis through the eastern end of the Foret de St. Benoit, an exceptionally thick wood in the foothills of the Vosges Mountains. The 3rd Bn. positions, on the left, were situated approximately two miles SE of St. Remy. On the right, the 1st Bn. held a line about one mile SE and E of La Salle, a town guarding the southern road not leading to St. Remy. No physical contact was made with the enemy on this first day, but light mortar fire was received in the 1st Bn. sector in the morning and the 3rd Bn. sector throughout the day, one tank destroyer of the 191st TD Bn., platoon of which was in support of our 3rd Bn., being immobilized by a mortar shell hit in its engine. Attached to the regiment in addition to six tanks of the Co. "B", 191st TD Bn, were two tank-destroyers of Co. "C", 645th TD Bn., two platoons of Co. "C", 83d Chemical Bn., and Co. "C", 325th Engineers. The 2nd Bn., 399th Infantry, took up reserve positions at grid coordinates V2857.

At 0700 on the morning of November 3rd, two combat patrols consisting of a platoon from "B" Co., and a platoon from "L" Co., were initiated with the object of probing enemy strength directly forward of their respective battalion

positions.

“B” Co. returned at 0930 without having established contact. “L” Co., however, ran into strongly fortified enemy positions on hill 416.9, one mile east of St. Remy. The patrol had advanced to within less than 50 yards of a group of 14 enemy digging-in before recognizing the troops to be hostile. The “L” Co. patrol immediately opened fire, receiving a heavy return of mortar, MG and S/A fire from the entrenched enemy. A sharp firefight lasting one hour ensued, after which the “L” Co. platoon withdrew minus three men. Two of these casualties were later recovered with the aid of supporting weapons.

On our right, the 1st Bn., with “C” and “B” Co. in the lead and “A” Co. bringing up the rear, advanced toward La Salle, reaching the outskirts of the town without establishing physical contact with the enemy. “B” Co., thereupon, entered La Salle. Positions were organized by 1800 and the advance was halted for the night. At 2200, however, a 12-man enemy patrol was observed 200 yards N of La Salle. This patrol was immediately engaged and the leader of the patrol and two enemy enlisted men were killed before the enemy withdrew.

During the afternoon, the 925th FA Bn. was added to our combat team and assumed responsibility for artillery support.

With La Salle, directly south of St. Remy, firmly in our hands and “C” Co. astride the highway leading into La Salle from the west, “B” Co. slashed north over rolling, open terrain toward the important town of St. Remy. The enemy withdrew stubbornly before our advance, subjecting our troops to constant mortar and MG fire as they fell back.

By 1350 “B” Co. had fought forward to a point 600 yards SE of St. Remy

and patrols were dispatched into the town which was found to have been evacuated by the enemy with the exception of four enemy deserters who were taken prisoner. By 1820, the 1st Bn. had entered St. Remy in force and taken up positions within the town and along the road network leading East, North and South, with the battalion's left flank secured by our 3rd Bn. holding a fourth road leading NW.

No sooner had our 1st Bn. taken up positions within St. Remy, however, when mortar and MG fire was centered on the town making movement extremely hazardous. This fire was not overcome until the enemy was driven from high ground to the NE.

A new Regimental CP was established at 1810 SW of St. Remy (V313704).

The 2nd Bn. remained in Regimental reserve.

The morning of November 5th dawned cool and clear. Until 1700 the day was spent clearing road blocks and mines from the area E and NE of St. Remy. At 1700 the attack was resumed with the direction of our thrust changed from North to East. A short advance was made South of the main highway leading to Etival against bitter resistance from mortars and artillery. Patrols established contact with friendly units on our right and left flank without making physical contact with the enemy.

Mortar shelling of our troops continued throughout the night and the next morning. At 1300 on November 6th, "I" Co. took the lead in pushing the attack and almost immediately made contact with the enemy. Thrusting through the woods, they were pinned down in a clearing by intense mortar and MG fire. A call for aid to our Cannon Co. and some very accurate fire by the 105's served to smash resistance at this point after several enlisted men and the Company Commander had been wounded. But at 1330, the advance eastward toward the village of Pajaille was resumed.

Active defense was encountered throughout the remainder of the day, but the objective was reached at V340732 by 1530.

In the 1st Bn. sector, a command liaison was established between our 1st Bn. and the 2nd Bn., 15th Infantry to coordinate our attack on hill 372, 1 km. East of St. Remy. Hill 372 dominates the town and clear fields of enemy observation and fire had made it impossible to move forward until this barrier was removed. Without capture of hill 372, our positions within St. Remy would soon have become untenable, severe shelling of our troops having caused numerous casualties.

“A” Co. was first to move forward against this objective, striking in a North-Easterly direction through the 15th Infantry sector. Immediate enemy resistance developed as soon as “A” Co. reached the woods at the foot of the hill. But “A” Co. persisted in its attack to secure high ground and pushed ahead to take the hill under heavy enemy 88 artillery and mortar fire.

Unable to continue its advance North, “C” Co. turned East along the road leading from St. Remy to the original objective of “A” Co. at V340727 while “A” Co. cleared resistance on “C” Cos. right flank. Contact between “A” and “C” Cos. was finally established at 1015, and with “I” Co., on the 1st Bn’s. left flank at 1740, cementing our control of high ground East of St. Remy and securing our hold on the town.

At 2100, “B” Co. relieved “I” Co. and moved to “K” Co’s. original positions at V326726. Seventeen prisoners were taken in the day’s operations.

Movement to relieve the 157th Infantry was begun on the morning of November 7th. No physical contact was made with the enemy and by nightfall our 1st Bn. had been partially relieved by the 2nd Bn., 15th Infantry while

our 3rd Bn. took over positions occupied by the 3rd Bn., 157th Infantry.

Rain for the fourth straight day made operations difficult as the attempt was made on November 8th to move the 1st Bn., less "B" Co., from reserve positions in St. Remy to a new reserve location. Heavy mortar and artillery fire from new enemy positions overlooking St. Remy were so effective as to cause movement to be postponed until late afternoon and "B" Co. could not be removed until darkness had settled over the rain-soaked fields.

Meanwhile, "E" Co., one platoon from "F" Co., and one platoon from "G" Co., committed for the first time, moved into positions occupied by the 1st Bn., 157th Infantry, completing its relief, while the remainder of the 2nd Bn. continued in reserve. Pending exchange of command, our entire 2nd Bn., however, was attached to the 157th Infantry.

Our 3rd Bn., also operating under command of the 157th Infantry, maintained active contact with the enemy sheltered in buildings in the village of Ste. Odile, capturing 14 prisoners while undergoing mortar and artillery fire.

At 2000, "B" Co. was finally withdrawn after one platoon was relieved by a platoon of our "K" Co., and the Commanding Officer of the 399th Infantry assumed command of the regimental sector. At this time, a new CP was established at V310745, NW of St. Remy.

On November 9th, the entire regiment was relieved of our sector by the 398th Infantry and troops were sent to assembly areas awaiting further disposition. Due to pending relief, only patrol action was engaged in; patrols reporting buildings in Beaulier, V337747, and surrounding high ground still firmly held by the enemy with automatic fire.

Mine fields and booby-traps planted in our 1st Bn. assembly area at V314741 caused several casualties.

During the afternoon, the 399th Infantry Regiment reverted to the control of our own division, the 100th Infantry.

On November 10th, the 399th, minus our 2nd Bn., which remained in its previous positions, was shifted from the St. Remy sector on an end run northward to the city of Baccarat, taking up assigned positions East of the Muerthe River where outpost lines were established between the towns of Mariviller and Gramont, NE of Baccarat. Elements on our flanks were now the 397th on our right and the 117th Recon. Sq. on our left.

November 11th found our outposts holding the important Meriviller - Bertrichamps road, establishing patrols and listening posts, and advancing to secure the Veney - Bertrichamps highway. No contact was made with the enemy but scattered groups were observed by our patrols.

During the day, the 2nd Bn. moved into the new assembly area and the regiment was completely established on the East side of the Muerthe River.

At 0900 on the morning of November 12th, our Regiment, minus the 3rd Bn. and "B" Co., which had been set aside as a regimental reserve, attacked. Quickly seizing Veney, the 1st Bn. advanced to high ground East and South of Neufamisons. "A" and "C" Cos. secured the important road net West of the town, both Companies encountering S/A fire supported by mortars and MGs in the V335 coordinates, from prepared positions. Log pillboxes and trenches commanding excellent fields of fire made the advance exceedingly hazardous, but when the enemy positions were flanked by our troops, the Germans either retreated or surrendered. Sniper activity continued after our troops reached their objective (V332845) at 1630.

In the narrow sector allotted to our 2nd Bn., after an advance of 300 yards from the L.D., "F" Co., which was leading, with "G" and "E" Cos.

following in a column of companies, was pinned down by a hail of 88 and MG fire which hated their advance for over four hours. At 1525, "F" Co., fighting over soggy and wooded terrain, was able to continue the attacks arriving at their objective (V340834) at 1815, while "G" Co. deployed along "F" Co's. right flank, over-running hastily abandoned foxholes and dugouts full of enemy equipment.

With the road net leading from Neufmaisons in our hands and the 3rd Bn., returned to our control, established in a new assembly area, CT9 reorganized its positions along the entire regimental front.

The 2nd Bn. took up positions generally SW of Neufmaisons, relieving the 1st Bn., while the 1st Bn. pivoted South to reduce strong enemy positions on hill 409.9 (V343826).

Earlier in the day, "G" Co. had come upon these positions and reported the enemy entrenched in considerable force. Moving through the Foret Pt. Reclose, with the 1st and 3rd platoons leading and the 2nd platoon in reserve, "G" Co. had broken out of the woods into a clearing just West of hill 409.9, situated approximately two miles South of Neufmaisons. Just North of the heavily wooded hill was Du Rouge Vetu, a house affording perfect fields of fire and observation. Two scouts were dispatched to reconnoiter the house, but at their approach severe mortar, MG and S/A fire was leveled at the two leading "G" Co. platoons, pinning them in the clearing.

Taking advantage of what cover was available, and with the 2nd and Weapons platoons dug-in in the woods behind them, "G" Co. fought it out for almost an hour before a squad from the 2nd platoon was able to move out of the woods and cover their withdrawal. Four officers, including the Company Commander, were wounded and 25 EM killed or wounded in this en-

gement.

“G” Co’s. experience was fair warning of the difficult task which lay ahead. Advancing against hill 409.9 with “B” Co. on the left and “C” Co. on the right, the 1st Bn. was stopped cold by a withering fire from the formidable enemy entrenchments, and at 2000 operations were suspended for the night.

A new CP was established at 1045 (V299836) approximately 2½ miles East of Baccarat.

Following a 15-minute light artillery preparation on hill 431.3, several hundred yards to the NW of hill 409.9., “B” and “C” Cos. resumed the attack with the 3rd Bn. moving toward initial positions of the 1st Bn., entrusted with the mission of relieving the 1st Bn. after it had captured the hill and to continue 1½ miles East to RJ 429.9 as protection for the left flank of the 1st Bn. in its advance South to high ground.

After an advance of only 150 yards, however, the 1st Bn. was again halted by a rain of 150mm artillery, mortar, MG and S/A fire from well organized and fiercely defended positions, and at 1445, after five hours of effort against a force estimated at a reinforced company, the 1st Bn. withdrew to positions 600 yards West of the Veney-Raon L’Etape road to permit further artillery fire on the hill. At this point there was a revision of plans and the 1st Bn. withdrew to positions held on the previous day.

“G” Co., holding positions a few hundred yards West of Du Rouge Vetu, and under heavy mortar and S/A fire throughout the day from that enemy strongpoint, also withdrew at 1330 to positions West of the highway so that artillery fire could be concentrated on the objective. One platoon from this Co. later returned, however, to its original positions so that control of the road might be maintained.

The Regimental CP was again moved to V322841, opening at 1330.

Flurries of snow were falling on the morning of November 15th when, at 0930, under cover of a Corps and Division artillery preparation set for H minus 10 and to continue until H plus 20 lifting 100 yards every four minutes, the 3rd Bn. took over the task of reducing enemy positions on hills 409.9, 431.3, and Du Rouge Vetu.

Fighting through the thick Foret Du Grand Reclose under almost continuous mortar, MG and S/A fire, the 3rd Bn., with "I" Co. on the left and "K" Co. on the right, slashed through the 2nd Bn., 397th Infantry, sector. Wheeling to attack the enemy on his flank from the NW, while a platoon of our "L" Co. supported by a platoon of tanks stormed Du Rouge Vetu from the North, the 3rd Bn. began to make some progress. By 1120, advancing under heavy fire and through barbed-wire and deep entrenchments, the battalion had fought forward 500 yards past the Neufmaisons-Raon L'Etape road and the enemy began to break.

Pausing only briefly for breath after reaching its objective, RJ 429, at 1200 the 3rd Bn. pushed ahead only to find that the enemy had abandoned the hill mass.

This success enabled the 1st Bn. to swing into action and at 1330 the advance which was to insure the capture of Raon L'Etape and open the way through the vallies [valleys] of the Rabodeau and Plaine Rivers to the Alsatian plaines [plains] beyond the Vosges, began. Knifing between the 2nd Bn., 397th Infantry, which had takes over our 1st Bn's. positions on the West side of the Neufmaisons - Raon L'Etape highway, and our 3rd Bn. which was protecting the 1st Bn's. left flank against approaches from the North and East, our 1st Bn. pivoted South along the road to Raon L'Etape to RJ 397.5 where an enemy counter-attack was repulsed by "A" Co.

"C" Co. now took up positions East of the highway with "B" Co. on the

West and "A" Co. bringing up the rear. Half a mile further South, at RB 393.3, a second sharp fire-fight was joined. Thirty-five minutes lapsed before the enemy retired, leaving behind a platoon of mortars and carts which were captured by our men.

Pushing ahead without waiting for support on its right flank, our 1st Bn. continued South until reaching high ground at hill 343.2 where the Bn. dug-in for the night having cleared the Neufmaisons - Raon L'Etape highway, outflanked enemy positions along the road-net and captured 28 prisoners (2 wounded) in the day's operations, at a cost of 13 casualties to ourselves.

At 1115, November 16th, Lt. Col. Elery M. Zehner pivoted his 1st Bn. once again, this time from South to East, and launched an attack against the hill mass 462.8 and 485.3 known as Tete Des Reclus, from the West. These hills overlook the approaches to the valley of the Plaine River, the Raon L'Etape-Celles Sur Plaine highway, and the important Muerthe River city and road-net junction of Raon L'Etape to the SW.

At RJ 313.2, approximately one-half mile east of its line of departure, with "A" Co. deployed on the left, "B" Co. on the right, and "C" Co. following, our 1st Bn. ran into a heavy concentration of artillery and mortar fire. Artillery support was called for, and after what was considered adequate preparation, the advance continued to the forward slopes of hill 462.8.

It was now 1430 and the real struggle was still to come. Entrenched in reinforced, log studded fox-holes with overhead cover and clear fields of fire which made every emplacement a miniature fortress, the enemy put up a fanatical resistance. To take the hill it became necessary to root the enemy out of his positions one by one. Thick undergrowth, the steep slope and the impossibility of using the road to the crest of the hill due to enemy fire, made the task exceptionally difficult. Supplies of food and ammunition had

to be hand-carried, the carriers working their way up the slopes on their bellies with marmite cans and packs strapped to their backs.

By 1500, the crest of the hill was finally reached and the 1st Bn. started to dig-in in anticipation of a counter-attack. They did not have long to wait. At approximately 1600, the enemy launched his drive to regain high ground. Attacking from the North and East with about 90 men, they rushed our positions with fanatical fury. In bitter fighting similar to battle experiences in the South Pacific during which enemy and friendly troops often become intermingled, the attack continued until after dark when it was finally broken by our men, leaving our 1st Bn. in command of the hill.

Individual acts of heroism and initiative contributed greatly to this success. A case in point is that of Sgt. Richard S. Atkinson of "D" Co. During the height of the enemy counter-attack Sgt. Atkinson, finding he could not gain a clear field of fire with his .30 cal. heavy machine gun, dismounted the gun and holding it in his hands sprayed the attacking force from an upright position.

This action resulted in the capture of 75 prisoners with 35 enemy counted dead and 8 wounded evacuated by us plus an undetermined number evacuated by the enemy. Our losses were 22 killed and 42 wounded. The performance of our 1st Bn. was so noteworthy as to receive a personal commendation from Maj. Gen. Withers A. Burrell, Division Commander.

Our 3rd Bn. to the North, meanwhile, was not resting on its laurels. Seeking to push forward to high ground in the vicinity of 429.9 (V363825), the enemy permitted our troops to advance until they were almost upon their objective before opening up with heavy mortar and MG fire.

"L" Co., in particular, ran into severe shelling. At 1400, the enemy made a

serious threat to our positions, attacking from the NW with a force estimated at a full company. Striking "L" Co. on its left flank, the enemy persisted in their counter-attack for two hours before the attack was finally repulsed. Losses sustained by "L" Co. in this engagement were 14 EM and one officer wounded, but our lines held and when our positions were taken over by the 3rd Bn., 398th Inf., conditions had been stabilized.

Our 2nd Bn. remained in reserve.

November 17th was spent in regrouping and consolidating positions gained during the previous two days of furious fighting. The enemy showed little inclination or ability to continue the fight and contact was difficult to make. At 1530, however, an enemy force was observed moving SW through a draw East of "B" Co's. positions. This group was immediately engaged and until 1730 skirmishes with infiltrating enemy troops between our 1st Bn. positions and those of the 2nd Bn., 397th Infantry were carried out.

Toward dusk, mortar shells fell in both the "A" and "C" Co. sectors causing a few casualties.

"E" Co. relieved the 3rd Bn., 398th Infantry, at 1525 from positions athwart hills 409.9 and 431.3.

Contact patrols were dispatched by our 3rd Bn. but met only minor opposition.

On November 18th, CT9 was entrusted with the mission of protecting the Division's left flank and rear while operations proceeded further South and East. Vigorous patrol activity was engaged in throughout the day by our 2nd and 3rd Bns. Contact was established with the enemy who was busily engaged in preparing defensive positions along a line running SE from RJ 306.1 and RJ 385.6 to V365825.

The 1st Bn. held their positions under intermittent artillery and mortar fire.

A new location for our regimental CP was selected on the southern outskirts of Bertrichamps.

November 19th was one of those rare days of sunshine CT9 had so far experienced in France. The 1st Bn., attached to the 398th Infantry, completed its protective mission and was returned to the control of our Regiment at 2030, relieving the 2nd Bn., 397th Infantry, which had been attached to our control.

Our 1st Bn., continuing protection of the Division's left flank and rear from the Plaine River to positions previously established, underwent intermittent mortar fire throughout the day, but held their lines.

The weather on November 20th continued clear and cool with good visibility facilitating the Regiment in maintaining its protection of the Division's left flank and rear while operations proceeded further South.

Our 2nd Bn. was relieved of positions on hills 506.8 and 538.1 by our "C" Co., while "B" Co. moved across the La Plaine River to the town of La Trouche, cutting the Raon L'Etape-Celles highway under heavy mortar and S/A fire. By nightfall, two-thirds of the village had been occupied and the enemy withdrew further East.

At 1300, our "F" Co. was attached to our 1st Bn., and by 1700 had moved South to take up positions along the North bank of the La Plaine river (V371804).

While these maneuvers were taking shape, the 1st platoon of our "K" Co. to the North hammered against strong enemy MG emplacements on the forward slope of hill 467.6. Advancing despite fierce resistance, the MG emplacements were over-run after 2½ hours of bitter combat.

The remainder of our 3rd Bn. made preparations for driving the enemy from strongly entrenched positions between RJ 431.9 and hill 439.2.

Twenty-six prisoners were taken by "K" Co. in capturing hill 467.6 and 14 by the 1st Bn. during infiltrating skirmishes and the attack on hill 538.

By early morning of the 21st of November, "B" Co. had fully occupied the village of La Trouche while the Regiment continued its support of the Division's left flank and rear with vigorous patrolling action to the NE and SE.

A time-bomb reported by a prisoner of war to have been set by the enemy in a saw-mill in La Trouche was removed by our engineers and a road-block protected by 30 enemy troops was destroyed by our artillery.

Our "G" Co. captured high ground on hill 324.9 SE of Neufmaisons, without opposition.

The 3rd Bn. continued its pressure on dug-in enemy positions fronting hill 431.9 (V364833) despite heavy mortar and MG opposition.

The 1st Bn., 398th Infantry, was attached to our command at 1200.

With the enemy withdrawn to a new line of fixed positions after having been driven from hill 431.9, the 3rd Bn. resumed its attack against these fortifications located on the forward slopes of hills 424.3 and 436.1.

In the 1st Bn. sector, patrols discovered 12 enemy troops dug in at V383808 and a platoon at V379812 where one Kraut was killed. Road blocks encountered at V379807 and V381808, were removed.

Enemy resistance showed evidence of crumbling and late in the evening of November 22nd, the Regiment received orders to move to a new assembly area the following day. The 1st Bn. was ordered to take up positions in Vieux-Moulin, the 2nd Bn. was assembled at La Petite Raon and the 3rd Bn. at Senones where the regimental CP was also situated.

November 23rd was spent in arrangements for relief of our Regiment by the 1st Bn., 398th Infantry and elements of the 117th Recon Squadron. The 1st Bn. was relieved at 0915; the 2nd Bn. at 1100; the 3rd Bn. at 1330. Movement to the new assembly areas was begun at 1300. By 1500 the 2nd Bn. had closed in at La Petite Raon; the 1st Bn. reached Vieux Moulin at 1830 and with the arrival of the 3rd Bn. at Senones at 2300, the operation was completed. No opposition was encountered in the movement with the exception of an anti-tank ditch, a blown bridge, some felled trees and a few snipers comprising suicidal detachments.

Moving from its new assembly areas, the Regiment slashed forward at 0540 on the morning of November 24th on a line stretching from Gouttrangoutte to Champenay with the objective of capturing the Celles-Grandfontaine-Shirmeck road. With the 1st Bn. on the right and the 2nd Bn. on our left flank, the regiment advanced rapidly against sporadic resistance.

Our 1st Bn., with "C" Co. on the right and "B" Co. on the left and "A" Co. bringing up the rear behind "C" Co., was at Rothau on phase line "E" at 1420. By 1645, the battalion was ordered to take up positions astride the highway in an arc running from Rothau to Freccorrupt. But by 2400 this line had not yet been established although considerable progress was made in that direction, the advance being slowed by a dug-in enemy platoon near Fouday.

Our 2nd Bn. crossed its LD at 0900 in a column of Cos and struck NE with "E" Co. leading, "F" Co. following and "G" Co. bringing up the rear. At 1000, "E" Co. was on the outskirts of Plaine and by 1400 were two kilometers NE of the town. Resistance here, too, was spotty with several small engagements with isolated units of the enemy the only obstacles. Road-blocks were ineffective.

Our 3rd Bn. closed in to a new assembly area SW of Champenay (V537793) at 1045.

The Regimental CP was moved twice during the day, the first being established at Goutterangoutte at 0830, and the second at Diesbach at 1600.

Continuing our steady advance of the previous day, our 1st Bn. pushed ahead to seize the Grandfontaine-Shirmeck road in the Division zone. With the highway in our grasp, the 1st Bn. slashed forward toward Wasselonne, the Division objective. Resistance of scattered enemy pockets soon began to crumble, and what S/A and sniper fire was encountered was either by-passed or overcome. One Company of enemy troops was engaged at V641893 in the forest guarding the approach to Wiches, but this force was also overcome.

With its right flank on the Bruche River, the 1st Bn. slugged ahead. When it became evident that enemy resistance was almost completely disorganized, shuttling of troops with organic transportation was instituted. In rapid succession, "C" Co. overrun Heiligenburg at 1700; "A" Co. was at Neiderhaslach at 1745; and "B" Co. captured Oberhaslach at 2100. This advance was so brilliant as to receive a commendation from Maj. Gen. Withers A. Burress, the 1st Bn's. second commendation within ten days.

Meanwhile, the 2nd Bn., battling over appalling terrain, slogged forward after overcoming stubborn enemy resistance at Les Quevelles, passing through the town at 1230. Twenty-two of the enemy surrendered during this action after sending out two men with a white flag.

Continuing its steady pace, despite the almost impenetrable forest, the 2nd Bn. continued its advance along the Grandfontaine-Shirmeck road, and by 1725, "E" Co. was in control of Framont, "F" Co. had occupied Wackenbach and "G" Co. had liberated Vacquenox.

The 3rd Bn., in reserve, closed to a new assembly area in the vicinity of Albet (V596846) at 1730. The Regimental CP also moved to Albet at 1545.

One hundred and two prisoners were taken in the days operations, making the regimental total 375 for 25 days of combat.

The 3rd Bn., relieved from regimental reserve during the morning of November 26th, was the first to resume the attack and pursuit of the demoralized and disorganized enemy. Striking from its assembly area near Albet at 0745, the 3rd Bn. had passed through elements of the 1st Bn. at Oberhaslach by 0930. At 1000 leading elements had advanced 200 yards beyond phase line two, when an alert order was given to halt all units

of the Regiment.

The 3rd Bn. was ordered to assemble in the vicinity of Oberhaslach and closed at 1200. At 1400, "C" Co., of the 325th Engineers began movement to a new assembly area at Moyenmoutier (V390759). Other elements of CT9 followed via shuttling. The Regimental CP moved to Moyenmoutier at 1700. During the day's brief combat, 46 prisoners were captured to raise the Regiment's total to 399 for 26 days of combat.

The following day, the entire Regiment closed into Moyenmoutier and remained in the area to the close of this period, awaiting further orders.

On November 28th, the Regiment received orders to move from its assembly area in Moyemoutier to concentration areas in the XV Corps sector. At 1100, the Regimental CP was established in the town of Niederweiler (W538127). The Regiment and supporting elements closed is shortly after, assembling in both Niederweiler and Schneckenbusch.

The last two days of November were spent awaiting further orders with patrols dispatched on reconnaissance of possible routes of future employment.