

1 Feb 1945

We started the shortest month of the year long on hope and confident that ultimate victory was in the grasp of the United Nations.

While our men were primarily concerned with their own particular sector, keen interest was shown in the developments in the Philippines, on the Russian front, and on the Northern Sector of our own Western Front.

Our men were beginning to become well versed in the French and German languages. Through this knowledge of language they were beginning to appreciate the trials and tribulations the French people underwent while their German oppressors were in control. Democracy, indeed, was very sweet to these people.

The Regimental CP was still in Montbroun. The Regiment continued to hold its defensive positions along the line North of Sarreinsberg to positions in the vicinity of Le Killert (746471).

The 398th Infantry was on the 100th Division's right flank. The 399th Inf was on our left and the 179th Inf, 45th Div, was on our right. We also constituted the right flank of the XV Corps. The 45th Div was on the left flank of the VI Corps. Our Army Commander (7th Army) is Lt Gen A. M. Patch. Our Corps Commander is Major General Wade A. Haislip. Maj Gen Withers A. Burress commands our Division. Lt Col Robert M. Williams and Lt Col Floyd E. Stayton are Regimental Commander and Regimental Executive Officer respectively.

Our strength this date was 157 officers, 5 warrant officers, and 2804 EM.

Weather: Intermittent rain.

Visibility: Poor.

Roads: Slushy.

Rg Hqs: Montbroun, France.

Sv Co: Sarre Union, France

AT Co: Montbroun.

Cn Co: Montbroun.

Med Det: Montbroun

1st Bn: CP in St Louis. The Bn continued to hold defensive positions in the vicinity of Lemberg.

Co A vic Lemberg.

Co B vic Lemberg.

Co C vic Lemberg.

Co D vic Lemberg.

2nd Bn: CP in Meisenthal. Companies consolidated and moved up to frontline positions.

Co E vic Goetzenbruck.

Co F vic Sarreinsberg.

Co G vic Schiresthal (Bn reserve).

Co H vic Goetzenbruck.

1 Feb 1945

3rd BN: CP in Enchenberg. No change in location or situation.  
Co I vic Lemberg.  
Co K vic Enchenberg.  
Co L vic Lemberg.  
Co M vic Lemberg.

Supporting Units;  
Arty - 375 FA Bn.  
Engrs - Co B 325 Engrs.  
Armor - Co A 824th TD Bn (Towed).  
Med - Co B 325 Med Bn.

PWs: 349 have been processed through the Regimental cage.

Map Reference: XXXVII - 13  
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2 Feb 1945

Weather: Clear and mild.  
Visibility: Good.

The Regiment continued to defend along its present front lines. The enemy renewed his artillery fires. Heavy concentrations of arty and mortar fell on Sarreinsberg, Goetzenbruck, and Lemberg.

A raiding group from the 3rd Bn inflicted heavy casualties on the enemy. Other night patrols were sent out and also inflicted heavy casualties. Positions were improved along the entire Regimental front.

Four PWs were captured by the 2nd Bn, bringing the total from 8 Nov 44 to present date to 353. The PWs were on a patrol and their mission was to find out the strength and location of our troops and also to bring in prisoners. They stated that their company, the 5th Co, 466 VGR, was in defensive positions and their mission was to hold against a possible American attack.

3 Feb 1945

Weather: Mild, rain.  
Visibility: Very poor.

The Regiment remained in its defensive positions. During the night Co K relieved Co L in position at 1925. Patrols were sent out during the night and encountered mines and trip flares. No enemy activity was observed by patrols. Enemy arty and mortar fire continued to fall on front line positions. Work was continued on front line positions. MG emplacements were dug and individual foxholes were dug by Corps Engineers under direct supervision of front-line battalions.

Further reconnaissance was made for defense positions in rear of reserve positions.

3 Feb 1945

The 3rd Bn continued to hold the left flank of the Regiment. The 1st Bn was in the center and the 2nd Bn was on the right (south) flank.

The enemy put up about 35 flares between 2000 and 2230. Light mortar fire and occasional bursts of S/A and burp gun fire was the only activity during the period.

PWs: Seven jokers deserted the Fatherland to enjoy the luxury of PW life. (Our total PWs to date—358). The PWs stated that morale was very low because of the terror tactics of OG Von Muhlen. He threatened death to the families of deserters.

4 Feb 1945

Weather: Mild and rain.

Visibility: Poor.

The 398th Inf continued to defend its present positions. Preparation and reconnaissance of rear positions were given special attention during the period.

Special training was given to reserve platoons and raiding platoons on night patrolling and raiding.

Rcn was made of Lemberg, Goetzenbruck, and Sarreinsberg in preparation for the making of strong points, road blocks and general defense of battalions.

Two platoons of 100th Rcn Troops attached to us at 1800. They were placed in mobile reserve in Meisenthal.

5 Feb 1945

Weather: Mild and rain.

Visibility: Poor.

The 398th Infantry remained in its present defensive positions along the general line of Sarreinsberg, Goetzenbruck, and Lemberg.

Work on present front line defensive positions continued. Wire-laying parties continued to lay concertina along the entire front. Priority was given to final protective lines and draws. Positions in rear of reserve line were reconnoitered to organize them for defense.

Patrols sent out during the night were engaged by A/W and flak fire. Heavy arty and mortar fell on front line positions.

Co L relieved Co I on position and went into Bn reserve.

One PW was taken by 3rd Bn A & P platoon while they were moving out to put in wire obstacles vic 749459. He stated that the enemy was expecting an attack.

PWs: To date—359.

6 Feb 1945

Weather: Mild.

Visibility: Fair.

The Regiment continued strengthening its defensive positions along the Regimental front. Reserve positions were prepared in depth. Lemberg, Goetzenbruck and Sarreinsberg were in the process of being organized into zones with definite strong points prepared. Tank barriers were being constructed and mined. Concertina and d/a fence were placed along the front. Demolitions were placed at critical points. The work was continuous during the day and night. Special training for patrols and raider platoons were carried on during the day.

The roads within the Regimental Sector were being repaired. Holes and washouts were filled.

Heavy mortar and arty fire fell on the Regimental front.

7 Feb 1945

Weather: Light rain.

Visibility: Poor.

The 398th Inf continued to defend in present positions along the Regimental sector. The 179th Inf was on our right and the 399th Inf was on our left.

Rg Hqs: Montbroun.

Sv Co: Sarre Union.

AT Co: Montbroun.

Cn Co: Montbroun.

Med Det: Montbroun.

1st Bn: CP in St Louis

Co A vic Lemberg.

Co B vic Lemberg.

Co C vic Lemberg.

Co D vic Lemberg.

2nd Bn: CP in Meisenthal.

Co E in Goetzenbruck.

Co F in Sarreinsberg.

Co G in Schiresthal.

Co H in Goetzenbruck.

3rd Bn: CP in Enchenberg.

Co I in Lemberg.

Co K in Enchenberg.

Co L in Lemberg.

Co M in Enchenberg.

8 Feb 1945

Weather: Cool.  
Visibility: Good.

One PW was captured from the Fusilier Co, 559 VGD, by the 1st Bn. This brought the Regimental total to 360.

9 Feb 1945

Weather: Cool and cloudy.  
Visibility: Poor.

The Regiment worked on its defenses in Lemberg, Goetenbruck, and Sarreinsberg. The A & P Platoon continued laying concertina and D/A fence along front line positions. More road blocks were set up in established defense zones of the towns. AP mines, AT mines, and trip flares were laid in front of obstacles.

Co K relieved Co I on position. The 3rd Bn AT Platoon replaced one platoon of Co K on line, and the platoon of K reverted to support.

Searchlights were used on enemy positions. Observation in 2nd and 3rd Bn areas was good.

Special training was conducted for raider platoons.

Two PWs were taken during the period, bringing our total to 362.

10 Feb 1945

Weather: Light rain and cold.  
Visibility: Poor.

The Regiment continued present defensive mission, improving front line positions and preparing reserve and switch positions.

“Artificial moonlight” was used periodically in all Bn sectors from 091900 Feb to 100500 Feb, improving observation on enemy position. Active patrolling was carried on throughout the night.

An attack by fire was made on known enemy positions in front of Regtl sector at 100530 Feb. Fire of all infantry weapons were brought down on enemy positions, supported by fires of the 375th FA Bn and Div Arty, beginning at H-5 to H plus 10.

Results of the attack were successful in causing the enemy to open fire disclosing positions of several machine guns and mortars and the approximate location of enemy arty.

Co A 355 Antiaircraft Searchlight Bn (1 platoon) supplied the “artificial moonlight”.

Work was continued on the preparation of Lemberg, Goetzenbruck, and Sarreinsberg for defense.

One of our patrols engaged in fire fight with 12-man enemy patrol vic 747453, causing several casualties. Fifteen enemy moving into area vic 745429 were caught by direct hits of mortar fire.

11 Feb 1945

Weather: Intermittent rain and cold.

Visibility: Poor.

The 398th Infantry continued present defensive mission. Front line positions were improved. Patrolling was active during the night. Front lines received scattered arty and mortar throughout the period.

12 Feb 1945

Weather: Rain and cold.

Visibility: Poor.

Front lines received scattered arty and mortar fire throughout the period. Our patrolling was active throughout the night.

13 Feb 1945

Weather: Mild.

Visibility: Good.

The Regiment continued present defensive mission, improving front line positions and preparing reserve line and switch positions.

Patrolling was continuous throughout the night, with 1st Bn raiding known enemy positions, Hill 380, Q748448, with one platoon, supported by prearranged fires of 375th FA Bn plus Cn Co, 398th Inf. Results of the raid were 8 to 10 enemy emplacements neutralized by automatic weapons fire and grenades. The number of the casualties in the emplacements were not determined.

Two enemy MGs, one at 746446 and one at 746451, were silenced with five casualties.

The fire of the 375th FA Bn and Cn Co blocked enemy approaches and covered known targets very effectively.

Raiding groups accomplished missions and returned to our lines with no casualties.

14 Feb 1945

Weather: Mild.

Visibility: Good.

No change in mission.

Two PWs were taken, bringing our total since Nov 44 to 364.

15 Feb 1945

Weather: Mild.

Visibility: Good.

Rg Hqs: Montbroun.

Sv Co: Sarre Union.

15 Feb 1945

AT Co: Montbroun.  
Cn Co: Montbroun.

1st Bn: CP in St Louis.  
Co A vic Lemberg.  
Co B vic Lemberg.  
Co C vic Lemberg.  
Co D vic Lemberg.

2nd Bn: CP in Meisenthal.  
Co E vic Goetzenbruck.  
Co F vic Sarreinsberg.  
Co G vic St Louis.  
Co H vic Goetzenbruck.

3rd Bn: CP in Enchenberg.  
Co I vic Lemberg.  
Co K vic Lemberg.  
Co L vic Enchenberg.  
Co M vic Enchenberg.

The 398th Inf continued present defensive mission, improving front line positions, and preparing reserve lines and switch positions within Regtl sector. A raid in platoon strength by 2nd Bn, supported by prearranged fires of 375th FA Bn and atchd armrd arty and 398th Cn Co, was carried out on known enemy positions vic 745428. Platoon moved W from vic 745435 planning to swing S in woods and sweep enemy positions, but received burp gun fire and hand grenades from vic 745432 (13 Enemy) and MG fire from emplacements at 745432, 74554320, and 74554330. Platoon engaged enemy, inflicting seven known casualties and two probable and withdrew. One member of the raiding group was wounded. Ambush groups were forward of lines along Regtl sector prepared to ambush enemy and report activity. Enemy MG and crew at 746442 destroyed at 1155A by fire of 1st Bn.

Supporting Units:  
375th FA Bn  
Co B 325th Engr Bn  
Co A 824th TD Bn (Towed)  
Co B 325th Med Bn  
100th Rcn Tr (-1 plat) atchd

16 Feb 1945

Weather: Mild and clear.

Visibility: Good.

The 398th Inf continued present mission, improving front line positions, and preparing reserve lines and switch positions within Regtl sector. Aggressive patrolling was continued throughout the period resulting in two enemy casualties. Small groups remained in ambush positions at nine (9) points in front of Regtl sector for the purpose of taking prisoners. Front lines unit received light arty and mortar fire.

17 Feb 1945

Weather: Mild and light fog.

Visibility: Poor.

The 398th Inf cont present mission, improving front line positions, preparing switch positions and reserve lines within Regtl sector, and preparing new front line positions designed to shorten lines of 1st and 2nd Bns. Raiding platoon, 3rd Bn, moved to 753457 and then headed N into draw. Enemy MG firing tracer opened up and patrol moved E to 754458 seeking softer spot in enemy lines. From 754458 (estimated to be about 50 yards from enemy positions), platoon formed skirmish line to attack. An intense fire fight resulted. Prearranged arty fires were called for at this point. Flares used to illuminate enemy positions exposed twenty enemy in open. An estimated fifteen casualties were inflicted on enemy during this illumination. Eny mortar fire caused platoon to withdraw. No casualties were received by raiding party. Reconnaissance and combat patrols were active throughout the period. Front lines received light arty fire and mortar fire.

PWs: Three PWs were taken during this period, bringing the total to 368.

The 222nd Inf, 42nd Div was now on our right.

18 Feb 1945

Weather: Mild and rain.

Visibility: Poor.

The 3988th Inf cont present mission, improving front line positions, and preparing reserve lines and switch positions within Regtl sector. Aggressive patrolling was cont throughout the period. Small groups remained in ambush positions at eight (8) points in front of the Regtl sector. Front line units recd light arty and mortar fire.

The 3rd Bn, 254th Inf was attached to the Regiment.

19 Feb 1945

Weather: Mild and clear.

Visibility: Fair.

The 398th Inf continued to defend in present positions and improving front line positions. Work on reserve lines and switch positions continued. Combat and reconnaissance patrols were sent out during the night. Small groups remained in ambush position in front of Regimental sector. Wire laying details continued to lay wire and trip flares. Co I relieved Co K in position. Co K reverted to Bn reserve. Relief completed at 1840. AT platoon relieved one platoon of Co I on position. Front line units received light arty and mortar fire.

20 Feb 1945

Weather: Intermittent rain.

Visibility: Poor.

The 398th Inf made some changes in its defensive positions during the period. The 1st and 2nd Bns improved their positions by moving to previously prepared positions. Defensive fires were improved also. Work on laying wire and trip flares continued. Progress continued on reserve and switch positions. Patrols reconnoitered enemy positions. Ambush patrols remained in ambush positions during the hours of darkness. Searchlights were used on enemy positions with good results. One company coordinated its fires with the 375th FA which fired on every known enemy troop and gun position with good results.

21 Feb 1945

Weather: Mild.

Visibility: Fair.

The mission of defending in present positions was continued. Co K relieved Co L on position at 1845. Co L reverted to 3rd Bn reserve. Reconnaissance and combat patrols continued their aggressive patrolling during the period. Ambush parties remained in ambush positions observing to the front. The 2nd Bn continued to lay wire and trip flares in front of new positions. Work on reserve and switch positions continued. Special training of raider platoons was conducted during the period.

Two (2) PWs were taken, bringing the total to 370 since 8 Nov 44.

Supporting Units:

Cn Co - D/S

AT Co - D/S

Arty - 375th FA Bn D/S

Engrs - Co B 325th Engr Bn G/S

Armor - Co A 824th TD Bn (Towed) G/S

Med - Co B 325th Med Bn D/S

Rcn Tr - 100th Rcn Tr (-1 plat) atchd

Misc - 353 AAA AW Bn G/S

22 Feb 1945

Weather: Mild and clear.

Visibility: Good.

The 398th Inf remained in present defensive positions. Positions were improved. Work on wire and obstacles continued. Strong patrols were sent out during the period. Ambush parties remained in observation. The enemy was harassed by observed mortar, arty, and cannon fires throughout the day. Known enemy positions were fired upon. The work on reserve and switch positions continued. Patrols and raiding parties were instructed on the use of the flame throwers.

Rg Hqs: Montbroun.

Sv Co: Sarre Union.

AT Co: Montbroun.

Cn Co: Montbroun.

Med Det: Montbroun.

1st Bn: CP in St Louis.

Co A vic Lemberg.

Co B vic Lemberg.

Co C vic Lemberg.

Co D vic Lemberg.

2nd Bn: CP in Meisenthal.

Co E vic Goetzenbruck.

Co F vic Sarreinsberg.

Co G vic St Louis.

Co H vic Goetzenbruck.

3rd Bn: CP in Enchenberg.

Co I vic Lemberg.

Co K vic Lemberg.

Co L vic Enchenberg.

Co M vic Enchenberg.

23 Feb 1945

Weather: Mild and clear.

Visibility: Good.

The Regiment continued to defend in its present positions. Co L relieved Co I on position at 1815. Aggressive patrolling of enemy positions by reconnaissance and combat patrols continued. Ambush patrols remained in observation along entire Regtl front during the night. O.P. concentrated efforts on counter battery fires of known mortar positions with good results. Raider platoons were briefed and given special training in their next mission.

23 Feb 1945

The enemy was rather quiet for the most part but still remained very alert to our patrols, especially in the vic 752455.

In the afternoon the enemy fired what is called a "road runner". They started in Lemberg with 8-10 rounds and traversed northward to along the vic of the road. This was done with 105mm arty. It was estimated that 2 guns were doing the firing and that 35 rounds were shot.

24 Feb 1945

Weather: Mild.

Visibility: Good.

The Regiment continued to defend along present lines. It improved its present positions and worked on reserve and switch positions. The 1st Bn sent out a raiding party during the night which proved to be very successful in destroying a group of 12 enemy with A/W entrenched vic 748453. Prior to dawn, 2 enemy, located in area raided, surrendered. Each Bn sent out reconnaissance and combat patrols to reconnoiter enemy positions to their front. Special training in patrolling and weapons firing continued.

25 Feb 1945

Weather: Mild and clear.

Visibility: Good.

Enemy positions were continuously probed by vigorous patrolling and the setting up of ambush parties to observe enemy activity for raiding parties. Frontline defensive positions remained the same. Progress was made on reserve positions; reconnaissance continued in rear of positions now nearing completion

Two (2) PWs were captured, bringing the total to 372.

26 Feb 1945

Weather: Cloudy and cold.

Visibility: Fair.

The present defensive mission was continued. Frontline positions were improved and reserve lines and switch positions were prepared. Patrolling was active throughout the night. Front lines received scattered arty and mortar fire throughout the period.

Company I relieved Co K as of 1920.

27 Feb 1945

Weather: Mild and cloudy.

Visibility: Fair.

27 Feb 1945

The Regiment continued to probe enemy positions by vigorous patrolling and setting up ambush parties to observe any enemy activity for raiding parties. Front-line defensive positions remained the same. Progress was made on reserve positions; reconnaissance continued to rear of positions now nearing completion.

28 Feb 1945

Weather: Mild and clear.

Visibility: Good.

The Regiment continued its present mission of defending positions along a north-south line from north to a point vic 748472. Work on reserve positions continued. Front-line positions were improved also. Patrols probed deeper into enemy positions. Arty, cannon, and mortar fired harassing fires on roads leading to Mouterhouse from Bitche and front-line positions.

Rg Hqs: Montbroun, France.

Sv Co: Sarre Union.

AT Co: Montbroun.

Cn Co: Montbroun.

Med Det: Montbroun.

1st Bn: CP in St Louis.

Co A vic Lemberg.

Co B vic Lemberg.

Co C vic Lemberg.

Co D vic Lemberg.

2nd Bn: CP in Meisenthal.

Co E vic Goetzenbruck.

Co F vic Sarreinsberg.

Co G vic St Louis.

Co H vic Goetzenbruck.

3rd Bn: CP in Enchenberg.

Co I vic Lemberg.

Co K vic Enchenberg.

Co L vic Lemberg.

Co M vic Enchenberg.

Supporting Units: 375th FA Bn D/S, Co B 325th Engr Bn G/S, Co A 824th TD Bn (Towed) G/S, Co B 325th Med Bn D/S, Rcn Tr 100th Div (-1 plat) atchd.

The Personnel Section of the Regiment remained in Sarrebourg, France, throughout the month.