

3100-ART-O.2

Monthly (& longer intervals)
History

100th Inf Div Arty

1 Nov 44...
30 Sept 45

DECLASSIFIED
DOD Dir. 5200.9, Sept. 27, 1953
RMD by gus date MAR 18 1964

SECRET

UNIT HISTORY

HEADQUARTERS
100TH DIVISION ARTILLERY

1 November 1944 to 30 November 1944

FRANCE

File OA

Plan
of the day.
1 Nov 1944 - The
Infantry Regiment of 21st, the company
the day.

9 Nov 1944 - The Commanding SECRET 100th Division Artillery assumed full
command of all organic FA Bns and attached Bns, which were complete raised to the
100th Division Artillery. Attached units under the control of this headquarters
included the 80th AFA Bn, the 830th FA Bn and the 84th FA Bn, the latter two
from the 400th Group.

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The 100th Division Artillery, commanded by Brigadier General John B. Murphy and with a strength of 151 Officers 9 Warrant Officers and 2010 Enlisted Men, bivouacked non-tactically in the Delta Base Sector Staging Area #1 at Septemes, France, during the last week of October 1944. All personnel was very active; primarily concerned with drawing supplies at the Marseilles docks, unpacking and preparing them for combat operations.

On the morning of 27 Oct 1944 General Murphy held a Battalion Commanders' meeting and notified them that we would enter combat under the VI Corps, operating in the Seventh Army Sector. He also informed them that the order of movement would be by combat team with the first team leaving on Sunday 29 Oct 1944.

In coordination with other divisional units the 100th Division Artillery moved in Combat Team formation in the order CT #9, CT #7, CT #8, and the last march unit consisting of the 373rd Field Artillery Battalion and Special Troops. This headquarters moved with CT #8. The first convoy cleared Septemes by 0930 on Wednesday 1 Nov 1944. Moving north on highway N 6, successive halts were made at Valence and Dijon. The entire division closed in the vicinity of Housseras at 1700 Friday 3 Nov 1944.

Preparatory to taking over the responsibilities of the sector assigned the 45th Infantry Division, 100th Division Artillery Battalions were placed under the control of the 45th Division Artillery for coordination with their battalions.

This headquarters moved on 4 Nov 1944 clearing Housseras at 1130 and closing in at St Benoit at 1400.

To facilitate closer coordination for the forthcoming transfer, the 374th FA Bn moved into a position $1\frac{1}{2}$ miles south-west of Baccarat, closing there at 1600 on 5 Nov 1944. Other battalions continued under the control of the 45th Division Artillery. At 1700 the 405th Group, consisting of the 938th FA Bn (155mm Howitzers) and the 935th FA Bn (4.5" Guns), was placed in the general support and reinforcement of the fires of the 100th Division Artillery. At 1930 instructions were received that the 69th AFA Bn (105mm Self-Propelled Howitzers) would be attached to the 100th Division Artillery.

At this time, 6 Nov 1944, the 373rd FA Bn in position near St Remey, the 374th FA Bn in position near Baccarat, the 375th FA Bn in position near St Barbe and the 935th FA Bn in position near Baccarat; all continued their coordination with the 45th Division Artillery. A few harassing and point target missions were fired by the battalions.

7 Nov 1944 -- Continued operation with the 45th Division. Battalions fired on enemy machine gun positions with good effect. The 69th AFA Bn moved into position in the vicinity of St Barbe and was instructed to make reconnaissance for future positions in the vicinity of Baccarat. The 374th FA Bn took over the direct support of the 397th Infantry Regiment and fired Time On Target on two groups of enemy who were digging in. The 375th FA Bn moved at 1015 to the vicinity 2 miles north-east of St Benoit. No activity throughout the remainder of the day.

8 Nov 1944 -- The 375th FA Bn took over the direct support of the 398th Infantry Regiment at 2130. The weather was very bad so no firing was done during the day.

9 Nov 1944 -- The Commanding General 100th Division Artillery assumed full command of all organic FA Bns and attached Bns which gave complete relief to the 45th Division Artillery. Attached units under the control of this headquarters included the 69th AFA Bn, the 935th FA Bn and the 938th FA Bn, the latter two from the 405th Group.

The 375th FA Bn lost one gun from "C" battery through enemy action at Thiaville. Three men were killed in this encounter. Snowfall during the day confined artillery to 40 missions. The 925th FA Bn moved into new positions SE of Baccarat and registered in preparation for support of the 399th Infantry Regiment in their new positions SE of Baccarat. The 374th FA Bn fired propaganda leaflets into Thiaville, Raon L'Etape and Neufmaisons.

10 Nov 44 -- Continued bad weather throughout the day limited observation. Firing was confined to a few harrassing missions. Firing by the 375th FA Bn on enemy mortars was very successful, also the smoke screen laid down by the same battalion aided the 399th Inf in their advance. During these operations, 2d Lt McCracken, Forward Observer for "C" battery, was killed by a tree mine. Three other men from the 399th Inf were also killed in this action. Late in the day advance notice was received of an attack to be launched at 0900 on 12 Nov 44, the division objective being the seizure of the high ground north of Raon L'Etape. The artillery was assigned the mission of supporting this attack. The 69th AFA Bn was attached to the 100th Div Arty. A total of 37 missions were fired throughout the day; the effect of this firing was highly commendable from infantry reports.

11 Nov 44 -- This day was one of preparation for the coming attack. The 69th AFA Bn was formed into a groupment with the 374th FA Bn, known as the Liles Groupment, with the mission of direct support of the 399th Inf which was making the main effort. Other missions were the 373rd FA Bn in general support and reinforcing the fires of the 375th FA Bn in the 399th Inf zone of action; and the 925th in direct support of the 399th Inf. General Baehr, VI Corps Artillery Commander, visited this headquarters to discuss the forthcoming attack. During the day missions fired included point targets and harrassing fires by the battalions. The 373rd FA Bn suffered 6 casualties (1 killed) from a heavy and extremely accurate counterbattery attack of 104 rounds. This fire lifted at 2330. Heaviest artillery fire this date was a TOT by Corps fired at 1840. This was requested by the 375th FA Bn to clear out machine guns and mortars which were hindering their movement. Results of the TOT were reported as excellent.

12 Nov 44 -- The enemy resistance continued to be strong. Observers were able to locate and cause very effective fire to be placed on targets. Included was firing by the 373rd FA Bn in Clairefontaine as adjusted by an observer of the 375th FA Bn. Target hits were obtained. The 374th FA Bn gave excellent support in the advance of the 397th Inf with a rolling barrage. Other battalions fired harrassing missions, prearranged fires, and neutralization of reported enemy strong points.

The 425 rounds fired this day included nine TOTs fired with the VI Corps Artillery, which included 17 battalion concentrations fired. Reported results of the day's firing indicated extreme accuracy in placement and speed of delivery of all fires.

13 Nov 44 -- Continued bad weather restricted observation, visibility today was limited to about 4 miles.

An enemy counterattack consisting of approximately 200 troops walked into a normal barrage area and were immediately taken under fire by the 374th FA Bn. The fire resulted in complete dispersion of the enemy attack, and approximately 150 enemy troops were killed.

The 373rd FA Bn was busy firing missions adjusted by the forward observers of the 375th FA Bn, the Div Arty air OPs and VI Corps observers. Targets neutralized included enemy OPs, 2 enemy batteries, and a possible enemy Command Post located in a house.

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The 375th FA Bn and 925th FA Bn fired harassing missions which were included in the pre-arranged fires of the day.

Clearing skies permitted the Air Observation Planes to fly nine missions in the late afternoon.

Missions were scattered throughout the sector this day requiring the expenditure of 1113 rounds of ammunition. Results obtained were reported as extremely accurate and effective.

14 Nov 44 -- Repeating the action of the morning of the 13th, this morning the enemy walked directly into the preparation fires of the Groupment Liles (374th FA Bn and 69th AFA Bn). A large number of enemy were reported killed.

The remainder of the day was uneventful because of poor visibility. The Div Arty Air OP section made some very good adjustments on enemy installations despite adverse weather conditions.

This headquarters moved from St Benoit to Baccarat and closed there at 1500. Shortly thereafter VI Corps Artillery issued orders for a "Bingo" which was hill 431.3; this was cancelled and replaced by a TOT which was fired at 1740 by the 925th FA Bn.

The 375th and 373rd FA Bns in the southern sector rendered continuous artillery support of the division by firing numerous missions throughout the day. The 925th FA Bn was also quite active in its support of the advance of the 397th Inf.

Missions fired totaled 76 and required the expenditure of 1336 rounds of ammunition.

15 Nov 44 -- During the early morning pre-arranged fires were completed by all battalions in accordance with the plan of fires issued from this headquarters; results were effective. Locations of units were as follows:

925th FA Bn - 1 mile NW of Bertrechamp on the north side of the Meurthe River.

69th AFA Bn - (attached) in position 1000 yards E of Baccarat.

374th FA Bn - 1500 yards SW of Baccarat.

375th FA Bn - 2 miles NE of St Benoit.

373rd FA Bn - 500 yds NW of St Remoy.

405th Group: 935th FA Bn - vicinity of St Barbe.

938th FA Bn - 2 miles SW of Baccarat.

A preparation fire was fired on hill 431.3 from 0920 to 0928 at which time all artillery fire was lifted. The direct support battalions fired a rolling barrage 800 yards wide and covering 500 yards which the 399th Inf advanced behind. Shortly thereafter, four effective TOTs were fired including 12 battalion concentrations.

Missions fired this day totaled 55, requiring a total of 792 rounds of ammunition expended. Targets fired upon included enemy troops, machine guns, artillery positions, and Observation Posts. The Air Observers controlled 17 of the above missions all of which were successful causing a large number of casualties and destruction to enemy installations.

Operations Instructions #19 Headquarters 100th Division were received at 2000 ordering continuation of the present advance to seize the high ground SE of Raon l'Etape.

16 Nov 44 -- The only action during the early morning included harassing fires on miscellaneous enemy installations. Missions assigned and positions occupied remained the same. Plans for a TOT on a group of enemy mortars were drafted, this was fired at 1300 by the 925th, 194th FA Bns and the 405th Group. The 374th FA Bn

The enemy advance of the 100th Div elements required another preparation fire at 1300 consisting of one concentration, each concentration including the fire of two battalions.

fired a rolling barrage at this time in support of the 397th Inf. VI Corps Arty requested that the 375th FA Bn fire 115 rounds of propaganda shell.

The 375th FA Bn moved to new positions in the vicinity of Bertrechamps.

The CO of the 925th FA Bn, Lt Col Edgar A. Clarke, while accompanying forward elements of the 399th Inf in their advance was shot just over the heart by small arms fire. Maj Ted H. Corry assumed command at this time.

The Div Arty AOP section conducted 7 of the 67 missions fired by the artillery this day. The 1701 rounds expended were most effective according to all reports from observers and prisoners taken.

17 Nov 1944 -- New missions assigned were as follows:

373rd FA Bn - General and direct support of Co E of 398th Inf.

374th Group, including 374th FA Bn & 69th APA Bn - Direct support of 397th Inf. Maintain liaison and forward observation with 117th Reconnaissance Sq uadron.

375th FA Bn - Direct support of 398th Inf.

925th FA Bn - Direct support of 399th Inf and 117th Reconnaissance. Liaison and forward observation to be furnished by the 374th Group.

During the night activity was confined to small harrassing missions. The 373rd FA Bn moved to new positions approximately 2 miles SW of Raon L'Etape. The 374th FA Bn marked targets for an air bombing of the hill mass SE of Raon L'Etape. The 69th APA Bn moved at 1600 into new positions in the vicinity of Clairrupt. Other battalion positions remained unchanged. Very little firing was done this day due to ammunition shortage, only 979 rounds were expended.

The 12 TAC bombing subsequent to the 374th FA Bn marking was very successful.

Frost on the wings of the liaison planes caused a collision between two of the Div Arty planes. Considerable damage resulted and 2d Lt Roberts was injured to the extent that evacuation was necessary.

18 Nov 44 -- In accordance with Operations Instructions #10 Hq 100th Infantry Division the artillery continues its present mission of supporting the attack to seize the high ground SE Raon L'Etape.

Preparation fires were placed on miscellaneous enemy positions and strong points throughout the day. High spots of the firing included the following: The 374th FA Bn utilized deadly time fire to clean out entrenched enemy troops SE of Raon L'Etape. The 374th FA Bn completely destroyed a house SE of Raon L'Etape with 8" fire resulting in the capture of 75 dazed Germans.

Strong points in the Raon valley located by observers were neutralized by combined action. The 69th APA Bn marked targets located by smoke; followed by "horse-fly" designation by the Div Arty AOP section. The final blow was struck by the 12th TAC bombers attached.

At 2100 the 374th Group was broken up by placing the 69th APA Bn in general support of the 375th FA Bn.

Of the 56 missions fired by artillery units, 19 were adjusted by the Div Arty AOP section. A total of 170 rounds of ammunition were expended for these missions. Continued ammunition restriction still hampers the effective punch of the artillery.

19 Nov 44 -- No firing was done during the early hours. Preparation fires in support of the continued attack included 10 battery concentrations by the 373rd FA Bn, 11 by the 375th FA Bn, and screening smoke on enemy observation by the 925th FA Bn.

The steady advance of the front line elements required another preparation fire at 1300 consisting of nine concentrations, each concentration including the fire of two battalions.

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An enemy CP and many enemy vehicles located by the 373rd FA Bn were given a TOT--results were very effective.

Other battalions fired continuously throughout the day on point targets and in support of the advancing elements. The hilly terrain necessitated neutralization of several hill tops from which harassing enemy fire had been coming.

The air section had a very busy day locating targets and adjusting fire preparatory to the TOTs fired throughout the day.

Seventy missions were fired in which 667 rounds of ammunition were expended.

20 Nov 44 -- This division continues its present mission of seizing the high ground SE of Raon L'Etape in preparation of the advance along the axis of communication, namely Moyeumontiers-Senones. Plans were drafted for an attack to be launched at 0630.

Missions of units:

373rd FA Bn in general support of the fires of 374th FA Bn, priority of fires to the 375th FA Bn.

374th FA Bn in direct support of 397th Inf.

375th FA Bn in direct support of 398th Inf.

925th FA Bn in direct support of 399th Inf.

69th AFA Bn in general support and reinforcing the fires of the 374th and 375th FA Bns.

At this time the 925th FA Bn and the 374th FA Bn moved into position at Bertrechamps. The 375th FA Bn remained in position in vicinity of Thiaville. The 373rd FA Bn remained in position in the vicinity of St Remey.

Activity centered around the town of Moyeumontiers upon which considerable artillery fire was placed. A large number of enemy were seen killed, many were captured, other enemy installations were neutralized.

This headquarters moved from Daecarat to Raon L'Etape closing there at 1500. The headquarters section occupied the Hotel Vosages.

A total of 46 missions were fired on the abovementioned targets expending 667 rounds of ammunition.

21 Nov 44 -- Preparatory instructions were issued yesterday for reconnaissance for new positions by all battalions. Final occupation was completed during this morning with the following disposition.

The 374th FA Bn moved into a position 600 yds SE of Raon L'Etape.

The 925th FA Bn moved into a position 300 yds E of Raon L'Etape at 1200.

The 375th FA Bn moved into a position 300 yds SE of Raon L'Etape.

The 69th AFA Bn moved at 1500 to a position just W of Moyeumontiers.

The 373rd FA Bn moved into a small town just NW of Moyeumontiers.

The firing for the day under restricted ammunition allowances consisted of supporting fires only. For the 27 missions fired, 526 rounds of ammunition were expended.

22 Nov 44 -- With plans drafted in line with the rapid advance of the front lines, this headquarters issued Operations Instructions #4. This placed the 373rd in general support and reinforcing the fires of the 374th Group. The new 374th Group included the 375th FA Bn, which was placed in direct support of the 397th Inf. at 1800.

The 925th FA Bn displaced to Senones in time to enable them to register by 1300. The 374th FA Bn displaced west of Senones at 1010. The 373rd FA Bn displaced to a new position 2000 yds NE of Moyeumontiers. The 69th AFA Bn also went into position in the vicinity of Senones.

There were only 27 missions fired today with an expenditure of 334 rounds. Outstanding in this firing was the complete destruction by the 374th FA Bn of a chapel containing an enemy CP. The other missions were normal harrassing and interdiction fires.

The air support had a very heavy day flying 125 sorties; targets hit included 3 motor columns, 1 freight train, a railroad yard containing several cars and miscellaneous individual targets.

The 100th Division was officially mentioned in the "Beachhead News", Vol I #138, Wednesday 22 November 1944.

23 Nov 44 -- Adverse weather conditions during the early hours of the morning confined the artillery to very little movement or firing, no missions were fired by the four battalions of Div Arty.

The 375th FA Bn moved into a new position 1000 yds east of Moyennemoutier at 0930. The 374th FA Bn also moved east of Moyennemoutiers. The 925th FA Bn moved to 1/4 mile N of Senones at 1500.

Thanksgiving dinner was served in a very fine style to all officers and men of Hq & Hq Btry 100th Div Arty at Raon L'Etape. S/Sgt Pazinke deserves a work of commendation at this point for the results of his efforts.

This headquarters moved to a new CP location at Moyennemoutiers at 1600.

Only a small number of point targets was fired on during the latter part of the day, expending 217 rounds.

The next division objective is up the valley of the Breuseh River to the town of Barmach. Upon receipt of these new division instructions this headquarters issued Operations Instructions #5 in coordination with 100th Div Operations Instructions #30. These instructions contained the following missions:

- 373rd FA Bn - General support and reinforcing the 925th FA Bn.
- 374th FA Bn - Direct support of the 397th Inf.
- 375th FA Bn - Reinforcing the fires of the 925th FA Bn.
- 925th FA Bn - Direct support of the 399th Inf.
- 69th AFA Bn - No change.

Battalions were instructed to reconnoiter for new positions in the vicinity below:

- 373rd FA Bn - St Plaine.
- 374th FA Bn - Champ Hay.
- 375th FA Bn - Vermont-Douane.
- 925th FA Bn - Vermont-Douane.
- 69th AFA Bn - No change.

No other activity was reported.

24 Nov 44 -- Exceedingly bad weather prohibited any artillery firing. Activity was confined to movement of battalions as follows:

- The 373rd FA Bn moved to 500 yds east of Belval.
- The 374th FA Bn moved to new positions 300 yds NW of Benaville.
- The 375th FA Bn moved to new positions in the vicinity of Pontay.
- The 925th FA Bn moved to new positions 1000 yds N of Saulaires.
- The 69th AFA Bn moved to the vicinity of Celles sur Plaine.

This headquarters closed at Moyennemoutiers at 1400 and opened at Belval at 1330.

This day ended with no missions fired and 0 rounds of ammunition expended.

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25 Nov 44 -- Weather conditions during the early hours prohibited firing of any type. Continued rapid retreat of the enemy required displacement of artillery forward, in the swing around St Blaise, thence north up the valley in the direction of Shirmach. Units moved as indicated below:

Div Arty Hq at 1300 moved from Belval to St Blaise.

The 373rd FA Bn at 1400 moved from 500 yds E of Belval to 500 yds east of Plaine.

The 374th FA Bn's position remained unchanged.

The 375th FA Bn at 1400 from St Blaise to Rothau.

The 925th FA Bn at 1600 from 1000 yds N of Saultures to 1000 yds NE of Plaine.

Prior to their movement the 925th FA Bn fired 104 rounds in harrassing missions on point targets in support of the advance of the 399th Inf. No other missions were fired by other battalions today.

26 Nov 44 -- Continuing the plan to advance NE, all battalions were on reconnaissance for an anticipated move in the vicinity of Shirmach when orders were received effecting the transfer of the 100th Division from the VI Corps to the XV Corps. This resulted in the immediate movement of the 100th Div Arty complete as follows:

Div Arty Hq moved from St Blaise to Raon L'Etape.

373rd FA Bn from Diesbach to La Petite Raon.

374th FA Bn from La Plaine to Raon L'Etape.

375th FA Bn from Rothau to Niederharlach, then to Moyennoutiers.

925th FA Bn from Bamlord to Moyennoutiers.

No missions were fired today, the movement caused all units to be outside an area included within the No light line boundaries.

27 Nov 44 -- In compliance with orders received yesterday all units were loaded for the movement NE to the vicinity of Saarburg.

This headquarters cleared Raon L'Etape at 1000 and closed in Saarburg at 1230. The 375th FA Bn closed into their area in vicinity of Biberkirch in the early afternoon. The 373rd FA Bn closed into their area in the vicinity of Heesse at 1500.

No missions were fired this day.

28 Nov 1944 -- With no combat operations in order for the day the main functions for all battalions were maintenance and resupply. All staff members contacted similar staff officers of XV Corps and XV Corps Artillery to coordinate and plan our future operations under their control. Saarburg is very busy due to the large number of troops enroute to the front.

The 374th FA Bn moved from their position SE of Saarburg to area in the vicinity of Dossenheim with the mission of relieving the artillery battalion of the 324 RCT.

The 925th FA Bn closed into their area in vicinity of Hartzuller at 1300.

No missions were fired during the remainder of the day.

29 Nov 44 -- The entire artillery less the 374th FA Bn in bivouac in the vicinity of Saarburg continued to stress improved maintenance and resupply. Having received no movement orders from XV Corps, no missions were fired throughout the day.

30 Nov 44 -- No Change.

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* Auth: CG 100 Div Arty *
* Initials: TBA *
* Date: 3 Jan 1945 *

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S E C R E T

The first day of December found the organic battalions of the Division Artillery in bivouac in the vicinity of Sarrebourg with the exception of the 374th FA Bn, which was in the vicinity of Dossenheim. No missions were fired. Information from higher headquarters indicated the next major objective would be an attack on fortified positions of the Maginot Line followed by a similar but more intensive attack on the Siegfried Line ~~after crossing the Rhine River.~~

Upon receipt of the above instructions all units immediately started intensified training in the principals of attack on fortified positions.

2 Dec 44 -- The 100th Division Movement Order #3 received at this headquarters last night ordered all units to move N to an assembly area in the vicinity of Struth. This was done with all units closing in by 1200. The Division was given the mission by Corps of attacking and seizing Bitche.

This headquarters left Sarrebourg at 0930 and moved 12 miles N to the small village of Vescheim, arriving there at 1100. Immediately communications were established with the artillery under our control which included the following:

The 373rd FA Bn was attached to the 208th FA Group which consisted of the 772d and 202d FA Bns.

The 375th Group, consisting of the 375th and 925th FA Bns.

The 374th FA Bn remained detached to the 45th Division and in position near Niedersdutzbach.

No missions were fired, battalions were busy opening positions in preparation for the attack. All units were ordered to make a reconnaissance for future positions in the event a break-through was made by the Infantry.

A detailed plan of fire to be available on call was drafted by this headquarters and despatched to all units prior to 2400. The terrain in the advance sector being quite hilly, travel was restricted to a small number of road nets. The plan provided many points for interdiction fires on these road nets.

Missions adjusted by the Div Arty Air Observation Post included registrations and miscellaneous point targets designated by the Forward Observers.

3 Dec 44 -- The present Division mission of seizing Bitche continues in effect to accomplish this in coordination with the disposition of the Infantry regiments. Organic and attached FA Bns were grouped as follows:

373rd FA Bn detached for operations with 208th FA Group.

374th FA Bn detached to 45th Infantry Division.

375th and 925th FA Bns for 375th FA Group with the CO of the 375th commanding. This group is in direct support of the 398th Infantry.

208th FA Group assigned mission of general support of XV Corps and the reinforcement of the fires of 100th Div Arty.

Minor missions fired by the battalions during the day included interdiction fires, harrassing fires and enemy target of troops entrenched in the vicinity of Wimmenau. The 208th Group fired a TOT on the strong point in Rosteig with very good effect.

4 Dec 44 -- Many harrassing and interdiction missions were fired on the enemy in their rapid retreat. A time fire mission by the 373rd FA Bn was reported as being very effective.

~~The 400th FA Bn to Dossenheim.~~
During the morning the 375th FA Bn moved to the vicinity of Rosteig.

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The 925th FA Bn moved to the vicinity of Putey at 1500.

The 373rd FA Bn moved to 1500 yds S of Puberg at 1800.

This headquarters moved from Vescheim to la Petite Pierre, closing there at 1400.

Operations Instructions #11 issued from this headquarters at 2000 continue the following missions for the artillery battalions:

373 FA Bn detached to 208th Group.

374th FA Bn detached to 45th Division.

375 FA Bn in direct support of the 398th Infantry.

925 FA Bn in direct support of the 399th Infantry, also supporting the fires of the 106 Cavalry Group.

495 FA Bn (attached) in general support and reinforcing the fires of the 925th FA Bn.

208 Group in general support of Corps and reinforcing the fires of the 100th Div Arty.

5 Dec 1944 -- The 374th FA Bn reverted to Div Arty control at 0100, maintaining its position in the 45th Division sector. Observers of the 375th FA Bn located several enemy machine guns and mortars; these targets were assigned to the 208th Group who fired on them intermittently throughout the night.

A concentration of enemy materiel was located in the vicinity of Wingen. The 375th FA Bn requested a TOT on these targets and it was fired at 1100 with very good effect. This TOT was repeated again at 1200 by the 208th Group, 925th FA Bn and 375th FA Bn.

Operations Instructions #58 attached the 250 FA Bn (105mm How) to 100th Div Arty. Coordination was immediately started to bring this unit into action.

Other firing at this time included the 375th FA Bn placing continuous fire on Wingen and the 374th FA Bn placing a surprise fire on an enemy battery, practically destroying it with extremely accurate fire. The same battalion, in support of the 397th Infantry, fired a TOT on hill 309 at enemy troops making a counterattack. The firing broke up the attack and killed 77 enemy. Breaking up this resistance in Rothbach permitted our troops to gain command of the town of Reipertswiller.

Enemy mortars and an OP located in a castle in the vicinity of Lichtenberg was fired on by the 925th FA Bn using T-105 fuse. This action destroyed the castle, thus eliminating the OP and opposition in that vicinity.

6 Dec 44 -- Early morning firing by battalions in preparation for the day's advance included harrassing fires in the vicinity of Euchenberg. Concentrations were also fired on the town of Lemberg, Goetzenbruck, and St Louis.

The missions of units remained unchanged except the forming of the 925 Group, which included the 925 FA Bn and 495 FA Bn, with the CO of the 925 FA Bn commanding.

Following close on the heels of the retreating enemy, battalions moved to new positions as follows:

The 373rd FA Bn - no change.

The 374th FA Bn - to Reipertswiller.

The 375th FA Bn to Goetzenbruck.

The 925th FA Bn to Sarreinsberg.

The 495th FA Bn to Meisenthal.

The 250th FA Bn - no change.

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While operating as a FO of the 376th FA Bn, 1st Lt J. C. Maroney was killed by enemy action.

This headquarters, in following the forward displacement of the battalions along the axis of communications, moved from La Petite Pierre to Wingen, closing there at 1400.

The firing totaled 64 missions for the day, which required the expenditure of 1264 rounds of ammunition. Targets fired on included 2 counterbattery, 48 harassing, 3 machine gun and mortar, 5 groups of enemy troops and miscellaneous enemy strong points.

During the late evening a plan of preparation fires for all battalions was drafted. These fires were to precede the attack scheduled for 0930 on 7 Dec 1944. The main objective for this particular attack was the seizure of the town of Lemberg.

7 Dec 44 -- During the night many harassing and interdiction fires were placed on strong points in the vicinity of Lemberg. This was done to soften up the enemy resistance in preparation for the attack scheduled for 0930.

At the same time the 374th FA Bn on the right flank in support of the advance of the 397th Infantry had considerable action. Included were harassing fires and neutralization of a flak gun. Later a smoke screen layed on 2 hills NW of Mouterhouse enabled the doughfeet to surround the town which had been their intermediate objective for several days.

The attack scheduled for 0930 was launched with excellent preparation. Upon approaching the road SW of Lemberg, very heavy enemy defensive fires were encountered. A smoke screen was layed down to permit our troops to withdraw for reorganization for a new attack.

The 375th FA Bn fired 5 TOT's and a rolling barrage throughout the day.

A TOT fired by the 208th Group on hill 423 at 1445 caused a large fire indicating a large ammunition dump or gas dump had been set off.

The 495th FA Bn was relieved from attached to the 100th Div Arty and returned to its parent unit. The 373rd FA Bn, still under control of the 208th Group for operations, moved to the vicinity of Althian.

The 250th FA Bn moved into position in the vicinity of Scheresthal.

An enemy strong point hill 435 located $1\frac{1}{2}$ miles NW of Goetzenbruck commanded the area in that vicinity and also furnished excellent observation for directing enemy defensive fires. This was fired on at 1930 with a TOT, using 14 tons of artillery ammunition. Units indicated below each fired 2 volleys:

2 - 8" Howitzer battalions	2 - 105mm Howitzer battalions
2 - 155mm Gun battalions	1 - 4.5" Gun battalions
4 - 155mm How battalions	1 - 240mm Howitzer battery.

Harassing and interdiction missions were fired throughout the remainder of the night on the Lemberg area in preparation for the forthcoming advance.

A total of 67 missions were fired during this period requiring the expenditure of 1872 rounds of ammunition.

8 Dec 44 -- Information consolidated from reports received from observers indicated many enemy strong points in the vicinity of Lemberg. These were fired on during the night to soften up the resistance in preparation for the advance of the 399th Infantry. In addition, other preparations were placed at strategic points with considerable success.

Missions of units remained unchanged except the 925th Group was formed consisting of the 925 and 250 FA Bns with the CO of 925 FA Bn commanding; this Group was in direct support of the 399th Infantry.

The battalions fired 30 missions, expending 1652 rounds of ammunition. Enemy troops, tanks, mortars, vehicles and counterbattery were targets fired on.

Highlights for the day: The support given by the 374th FA Bn to the 397th Infantry in repulsing an enemy counterattack in the vicinity of Mouterhouse. Another effective mission fired on enemy troops in the vicinity of Meirh by the 374th resulted in 30 casualties. The 925th FA Bn adjusted the 373rd FA Bn on an enemy pillbox in the vicinity of Lemberg and destroyed the same.

While operating as FO for the 375th FA Bn in the area near Meisenthal, Lt Allen Grubbs of the 375th FA Bn was killed by enemy action. This officer had been most outstanding in his performance as an FO for his battalion.

With the resistance around Lemberg still very strong, firing on points provided in the prearranged plan were continued during the night. XV Corps artillery aided in this firing.

9 Dec 44 -- Missions and locations of units remained unchanged with the Division mission of the seizure of Bitche remaining the same.

The 399th Infantry's steady advance on Lemberg required little artillery firing. Occupation of this town was completed during the morning.

The 374th FA Bn fired several counter-mortar missions NE of Mouterhouse, killing 20 Krauts and knocking out the enemy installation.

A TOT fired at 1540 in the vicinity of Lemberg included the 925th FA Bn, 2 battalions of 6" Howitzers, 1 battalion of 155 guns, 1 battalion of 4.5" guns, 3 battalions 155mm Howitzers and two battalions of 106mm Howitzers. Firing was sustained for 20 minutes.

Another mission fired by the Div Arty AOP on Bitche at 1615 blew up an ammunition dump and knocked out an enemy battery position consisting of six guns. This latter adjustment was conducted by Air Observer Lt Caldwell.

Twenty minutes later a Corps TOT was also fired on Bitche; results were reported as excellent.

Another strong point located on hill 412.6 located 1 mile NE of Lemberg necessitated the firing of a TOT at 2135.

Other missions assigned for the remainder of the night included harrassing and interdiction fires by the 925th and 375th FA Bns.

Missions fired this day totaled 29, requiring the expenditure of 1872 rounds of ammunition.

10 Dec 44 - The front line elements advanced to a point just N of Lemberg where very heavy enemy resistance was encountered. Fortified and dug-in positions presented the greatest obstacle. On the right flank very little resistance was met in securing the high ground N of Mouterhouse.

Missions of all battalions unchanged except the formation of the 375th Groups including the 375 and 250 FA Bns, with CO 375 FA Bn commanding.

In addition to the normal organic battalions supporting the Divisional elements the following were given missions indicated:

The 208 FA Group was placed in general support of the XV Corps reinforcing the fires of 100th Div Arty.

The 202 FA Bn was placed in general support and reinforcing the fires of the 374 FA Bn.

A total of 30 missions were fired using 1116 rounds of ammunition.

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For closer support of the 399th Infantry, the 925th FA Bn displaced to 500 yards S of Lemberg, closing there at 0930.

Following the advance of the 397th Infantry the 374th FA Bn moved to Meisenthal.

During the early afternoon the 250th FA Bn displaced to new positions SE of Lemberg.

Normal general and direct support missions were fired by all battalions throughout the day.

A battery of German 88's located in the vicinity of the hospital in Bitché were given a TOT by the 208th Group. This firing was most effective as the enemy fire from this battery ceased immediately.

Missions fired by all battalions for the day totaled 52, requiring the expenditure of 1798 rounds of ammunition.

11 Dec 44 - During the early morning harassing and interdiction fires were placed on critical points in the sector NE and NW of Lemberg; missions of all units were unchanged. Normal direct and general support missions were fired throughout the day, one TOT was fired in a suspected enemy OP in the vicinity of Stockbronn.

This headquarters moved from Wingen to Sarreinsberg closing there at 1030.

Starting at 1000, TOT's and road-runners were fired by the battalions at irregular intervals on the area south of Bitché. Complete coverage was given the area. Heavy fire was placed on known enemy strong points and main road intersections.

Firing for the day totaled 45 missions requiring the expenditure of 1242 rounds of ammunition. Personnel, materiel and counterbattery targets were the important enemy units fired on.

12 Dec 44 - Division front line elements consisting of the 398th Infantry on the left and the 397th Infantry on the right continued their advance toward the division objective near Bitché. The 374th FA Bn reinforced by the fires of the 202 FA Bn supported the advance of the 397th Infantry. The 375th FA Group reinforced by the 208th FA Group supported the advance of the 398th Infantry.

Progress was very slow but steady. Little resistance was contacted throughout the entire front. The nature of the terrain was such that little artillery fire was required.

The battalions fired a total of 65 missions during the period of which 33 were observed. The Div Arty air OP was very active throughout the period. Four counterbattery and four registrations were also included. One 3-gun battery of enemy 88's were silenced by the accurate adjustment of the air OP.

At 0315 a company commander of the 398th Infantry requested an adjusted artillery fire on 20 enemy flak wagons. He brought the battalion into fire for effect himself; the flak wagons were silenced and have not been heard from since.

Other artillery missions were normal throughout the sector. A total of 1214 rounds of ammunition were expended for the day.

13 Dec 44 - Missions and locations of units unchanged, all efforts of all units continued to be concentrated on the advance of Bitché.

Normal harassing and interdiction missions were fired during the day. Included was one mission fired by coordination between Capt Garahan of the 398th Infantry, the 375th FA Bn and the 975th FA Bn; the target, an enemy 88, was destroyed.

A total of 30 missions were fired using 1116 rounds of ammunition.

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14 Dec 44 - Early morning activity was directed on the area NW of Bitché to soften up the resistance there. To facilitate movement of the 398 Infantry into position, the 373 FA Bn fired smoke on the area for 45 minutes. Later preparation fires and supporting artillery fires made the coordinated Infantry-Artillery attack on Fort Fruedenberg successful.

The 373 FA Bn moved into new positions 300 yards S of Lemberg at 0900. The 250 FA Bn also moved into new positions NE of Lemberg at 0800.

The 374 FA Bn supporting the advance of the 397 Infantry NW of Mouterhouse fired normal missions. One mission caught the enemy entrenched and caused loss of 10 Krauts, 1 armored car and 1 truck.

The 375 FA Bn had a very heavy day of firing on Maginot line fortifications scoring several direct hits. Preparations for the day required the expenditure of 75 rounds per gun.

The 925th FA Bn fired on miscellaneous targets of opportunity. Their "bag" for the day included 4 trucks knocked out, many enemy dead, 2 captured PWs and 6 captured enlisted PWs.

Total missions fired by the artillery were 43, requiring the expenditure of 510 rounds of ammunition.

15 Dec 44 - Activity was restricted today by adverse weather conditions; only 37 missions were fired on enemy vehicles, troop concentrations, machine guns and light pillboxes in the Bitché-Mouterhouse area.

16 Dec 44 - Plans were prepared and preparation in compliance with these plans was the only activity of the 100th Div Arty during the early hours today. The all-out attack by artillery on known fortifications in the Maginot Line was scheduled for 0930 but was cancelled by XV Corps. Later information received revealed that XV Corps Headquarters was planning a coordinated Corps attack at 0930 on the Maginot fortifications.

Missions fired throughout the day were concentrated on pillboxes. The 925th FA Bn claims to have destroyed one with direct hits.

The 374th FA Bn adjusted time fire on three companies of enemy infantry in the open. A large number of Krauts were reported killed. This action occurred SE of Camp La Bitché.

The 375th FA Bn marked two forts in the Maginot Line for bombing by the 12th TAC.

The 925th FA Bn was in direct support of the 398th Infantry with the additional mission of furnishing preparation fires for the 375th Group; it adjusted 8" Howitzers on the Maginot Line pillboxes. One pillbox was reported destroyed.

A total of 55 missions were fired by all battalions; the majority of the targets fired on were small enemy strong points still holding out immediately in front of the main fortifications.

The 398th Infantry was successful in gaining positions overlooking the fortifications and the town of Bitché.

17 Dec 44 - Activity started very early with preparation fires on the Maginot line fortifications which lasted for 30 minutes. This was coordinated with support by thirty-six P-47 planes which bombed and strafed Fort Fruedenberg.

At the same time on the right flank the 397th attacked Fort Otterbeil with the support of the 374th FA Bn and twelve P-47 bombers who bombed and strafed the fort.

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The 925 FA Bn marked targets for the 12th TAC with red smoke and fired on the flak guns, successfully knocking out one battery. Supporting the advance of the 399th several missions were fired in the vicinity of the college S of Bitch. This college was under complete control by 1400 today.

The 373 FA Bn AOP fired several missions on Bitch and fortifications, one hit was scored on an ammunition dump and caused a large fire in that area.

The 375 FA Bn fired continuously on Maginot Line forts, obtaining an estimated 15 or 20 hits on various forts. Considerable destruction was done in preparation for the final seizure of the fortified positions.

Missions for the day totaled 104, requiring the expenditure of 3635 rounds of valuable ammunition.

18 Dec 44 - Preparation fires including road-runners and harrassing fires on the area NW of Bitch were fired. The attack scheduled was launched at 0930 on Maginot Line fortifications. When action was completed at 1630 a total of 5 forts had been captured by elements of the 398th Infantry; very heavy artillery fire aided in this attack.

The 925th FA Bn concentrated its efforts on the Citadel near Bitch with very accurate observation, 60% hits were obtained out of the 50 rounds fired. One enemy vehicle in the vicinity was destroyed.

The 375th FA Bn continued its pounding of the Maginot Line forts accounting for 3 knockouts. One M-12 self-propelled gun went into action under this battalion's control and proved to be most valuable in attacking heavy fortifications. No more than 8 rounds were required to effectively penetrate any of the fortifications fired on.

The 374th FA Bn fired many missions on enemy machine guns and troop patrols. One mission fired on an 155mm gun immobilized it. This was followed by a heavy artillery TOT which destroyed the gun.

The Div Arty AOP flew 9 missions, 7 patrols and fired 4 targets. During one reconnaissance an enemy tank assembly was located and fired on; two tanks were reported bagged.

A total of 84 missions were fired requiring the expenditure of 3635 rounds of ammunition.

19 Dec 44 - The mission for the day for all units continued to be the destruction of the fortifications facing them. Firing also continued on other strong points near Bitch.

The 373rd FA Bn fired 17 missions during the day on various fortifications with excellent results. Their fires were coordinated by the 208th FA Group.

The 374th FA Bn fired 15 missions during the period; outstanding was a direct hit on a flak wagon in the vicinity of Stockbronn.

The 375th FA Bn supported the attacks of the 398th Infantry on Fort Fruendenberg and Fort Schlessen by firing rolling barrages. Other firing aided in repulsing a counterattack at 1800 near unit #3 of Fort Schlessen.

The 925th FA Bn fired 13 missions during the period. Firing was concentrated on the Citadel with the M-12 gun; 20 hits were obtained with destructive results. A large fire was observed burning throughout the day within the Citadel.

Later reports stated that all but two of the Schlessen group of forts had been successfully occupied by friendly troops.

374 FA Bn in vicinity of Bitch.

925 FA Bn at the last minute was ordered to remain in their position

at Leimbach.

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20 Dec 44 - Missions: No change; positions: No change.

Preparation fires constituted most of the firing during the morning. Just prior to H-hour notice was received that it was postponed indefinitely.

Div Arty Plan #1 and Plan #2 were changed to a TOT to be fired by the 373 and 975 FA Bns.

An estimated 150 enemy in a draw near Schorbach were fired on by a Corps TOT at 1100. Many casualties were reported in that action by a PW captured later on.

The Div Arty AOP located an enemy gun battery NE of Bitché and called for fire. The 208 group fired a TOT knocking this battery out of action.

Capt Kump of the 375 FA Bn located 20 enemy flak guns NW of Bitché and adjusted fire on the same. Effect was excellent as no further fire was received from these guns. This action occurred at 1800.

The 925 FA Bn fired on two tanks SW of Bitché at 1400, results unknown.

A total of 75 missions were fired during the period requiring the expenditure of 2299 rounds of ammunition.

Information was received at 1830 that this Division would be moving over and taking up the sector now occupied by the 44th Division, thereby ceasing their drive to capture Bitché, France.

21 Dec 44 - All units having received warning orders to the effect that they would be taking up new defensive positions to the NW were busy preparing for the move.

Orders were issued from this headquarters as shown in OI #21. All battalions were instructed to make a reconnaissance of their newly assigned areas, register one howitzer and displace as soon as possible.

This division having been ordered by higher headquarters to relieve the 44th Division and take up defensive positions along their front ordered the following disposition of the combat elements:

CT 397 relieve the CT 114 of the 44th Division on the left flank.

CT 398 less 1st Bn relieve CT 71 of the 44th on the right flank.

CT 399 protect the sector along the Regervillers Ridge from Fort Fruedenberg to Bitché.

1st Bn 398 hold Fort Schisseck area until relieved by VI Corps.

The following organization was ordered in the artillery:

373 FA Bn relieved from attached to 208 Group to general support.

374 FA Bn direct support of 397 Infantry.

375 FA Bn direct support 398 Infantry

925 FA Bn to general support.

250 FA Bn (attached) to general support.

Artillery firing for the day totaled 53 missions which consisted of road-runners, interdiction fires, and adjustments on enemy strong points in the vicinity of Bitché.

22 Dec 44 - In compliance with orders issued yesterday all units moved as instructed and immediately organized defense positions and installed extensive communications. Units moved to the following locations:

Div Arty headquarters to Montbronn, opening there at 0900.

373 FA Bn to Graisberg.

374 FA Bn to positions in the vicinity of Petite Redersching.

375 FA Bn to vicinity of Frohmuhl.

925 FA Bn at the last minute was ordered to remain in their position at Lemberg.

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For coverage of this movement smoke missions were fired starting at daybreak until mid-morning. An additional smoke mission was fired to conceal the retrieving of three disabled vehicles of the 781 FA Bn. Poor visibility caused by weather conditions also aided in these smoke missions.

The Div Arty AOP located enemy activity in the vicinity of Bitche and adjusted the 925 FA Bn on them with satisfactory results.

Other artillery firing during the period were harrassing, interdiction fires on suspected enemy installations throughout the sector.

All units drew up plans for defensive fires in accordance with the new order of battle.

Missions for the period totaled 58, using 1694 rounds of ammunition.

23 Dec 44 - All units continued their improvement of their defensive positions, extensive plans of defensive fires were prepared by all units. This included additional communications for control and coordination. Continuous reconnaissance was carried on by all elements for alternate positions and improved observation posts.

The 373 FA Bn fired 10 missions including harrassing and interdiction firing.

The 374th FA Bn fired 150 rounds of propaganda shell on the towns of Nousseviller, Weiskirch, Volmunster, and on the probable front line enemy troop concentrations. Other firing by this battalion included harrassing missions and one adjustment on an enemy gun positions.

In the 375 FA Bn FO, Sgt Martin fired on enemy digging in and finally caused the surrender of 4 Krauts. One enemy gun position reported by a PW was fired on. Other additional harrassing missions were also fired by this battalion.

The 925 FA Bn, remaining in Lemberg, received considerable enemy artillery fire in the vicinity of their CP. Several unobserved missions were fired against enemy tanks, mortars, and vehicles. Observers reported many target hits resulting in destruction to materiel and personnel.

Div Arty fire being reinforced only by the 208 FA Group made the coverage of the extensive division front very thin.

Verified reports were received in this headquarters that no American troops were in Bitche, thereby making firing still possible on this strong point.

Coordination between the Div Arty and a flight of bombers of the 12th TAC plastered Schorbach for 15 minutes at 1420 today.

24 Dec 44 - In the sector of the 398th Infantry an enemy counterattack developed at 0200. The 374th FA Bn fired rolling barrages and interdiction fires in repulsing this attack.

In compliance with Div Arty OI #24, battalions displaced by battery to the following positions:

373 FA Bn to vicinity of Guisberg.

374 FA Bn to vicinity of Bining.

375th FA Bn to vicinity of Siersthal.

925th FA Bn to vicinity of St Louis.

250 FA Bn to vicinity of Rohrbach.

Very little firing was done during the period other than registrations in the new locations.

Except for the movement of units and preparation of their defensive positions, little action took place. Fire at any enemy planes within range.

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Observations were made from this headquarters of approximately 1500 Allied bombers headed for "Jerry" with a nice Christmas package. This artillery also planned the firing of a new artillery shell incorporating the Pozit fuse. Every gun in the Div Arty and reinforcing artillery extended a similar greeting to the Krauts at one minute after midnight.

25 Dec 44 - Christmas Day started with a "Bang" with all guns firing the scheduled TOT. The new Pozit fuse was fired, reports of the results obtained have not yet been received.

Bustling activity was the keynote of Christmas Day, but not of the traditional festive variety. Of particular note was the many religious services participated in by civilians.

A change in the division plan, principal feature of which was a 4000 yard jump in the MIR forward, necessitated a complete change in artillery plans. This plan in one respect worked to the advantage of personnel in that the scheduled and long awaited Christmas dinner could be served without too much interference.

A very sumptuous turkey dinner with all the trimmings was served to all men. In spite of combat conditions an enjoyable time was had by all.

The 40 missions fired during the day included the normal harrassing and interdiction missions encountered in defensive operations.

26 Dec 44 - After receiving many changes in missions and position assignments the Div Arty finally settled down to the organization of defense positions. Final plans of defensive fires were drawn and released.

Firing during the early part of the period consisted mainly of harrassing missions against suspected troop concentrations and enemy MSRs. Road-runners were fired by the 375 FA Bn using the Pozit fuse.

The 374 FA Bn fired 10 missions on enemy troops located in the 397th Infantry sector; 25 dead Krauts were reported and large numbers of enemy wounded were removed under cover of enemy smoke.

While searching the front line in a liaison plane for enemy targets, Col DeLange located and directed fire on a group of enemy in a house. This action set the house in flames, troops were seen scattering from the house, casualties unknown. This mission was fired by the 373 FA Bn.

Reports of enemy parachutists operating near this sector necessitated more stringent security measures. All units have been instructed to set up all-around road blocks on all roads to halt all GIs and check for complete identification and password.

Plans were received and released for an artillery preparation to support a small scale attack by the 397th Infantry on the town of Etching on the morning of the 28th.

Missions for the period totaled 80, which required the expenditure of 819 rounds of ammunition.

27 Dec 44 - Outstanding in the activity for this period was test problems fired with the Pozit fuse. Reports varied as to the effectiveness of this new secret weapon. In general it is believed the speed of delivery and accuracy obtained from this shell will greatly increase personnel casualties on enemy troops.

Enemy aerial activity has increased considerably in battalion sectors. The 898 AAA Bn was given clearance to fire at any enemy planes within range.

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Illuminating missions were given the 824 TD Bn principally as an experiment for future operations in night firing. Results not yet determined.

The Div Arty AOP flew 9 patrols and adjusted Corps Arty on an enemy ordnance repair shop located near Waldhausen.

Firing during this period was comparatively light, only 31 missions were fired consisting mainly of harrassing and neutralizing action. No particular sector presented any serious enemy activity.

28 Dec 1944 - Missions and locations of all units remain unchanged. The defensive orders previously issued still remain in effect.

No enemy activity of major importance was reported for the entire day. No evidence has been found since the division went into this defensive role which would indicate that the enemy is preparing for an attack.

Bns fired test problems throughout the day to determine the practicality of ricochet firing on the now hard frozen ground. Units reported that between 50% and 100% of the round ricocheted.

The 373rd FA Bn fired gully and trail runners. One group of enemy troops observed in a house were fired on, 8 direct hits were obtained, enemy casualties unknown.

The 374th FA Bn fired on the MSR during the night with Pozit fuse, results were reported as very satisfactory. In addition this battalion fired harrassing missions on enemy mortar and gun positions. One large explosion was heard indicating the probability of a hit on an ammunition dump.

The 375th FA Bn also fired Pozit on enemy concentrations in the vicinity of Nousweiler, many enemy casualties were reported and 4 PWs surrendered. One mission fired on 2 ersatz pillboxes flushed 8 enemy and destroyed the positions.

The 925th FA Bn fired normal harrassing and interdiction missions throughout the day.

A total of 48 missions were fired for this period, requiring the expenditure of 642 rounds of ammunition.

29 Dec 44 - Field Order #5 Hq 100th Division was received at this headquarters calling for continued improvement of defensive installations. Complete plans were made and put into operation to insure that any surprise thrust or withdrawal by the enemy would be promptly apprehended and acted upon.

In compliance with the plan Tennessee which shifted the weight of Division defenses from the right to the left, battalions spent considerable time in checking their defensive fire concentrations.

The 373rd FA Bn fired harrassing and interdiction missions on suspected supply points and on the enemy MSR. Two direct hits were scored on an enemy tank.

The 374th FA Bn fired missions similar to the 373 and also was successful in knocking out 1 enemy tank with 6 direct hits.

The 375th FA Bn sprinkled Pozit on suspected enemy troop concentrations in Dolanbach and Schorbach areas. Observers reported that enemy troops scattered.

The 925th FA Bn harrassed critical road junctions with Pozit using short base intersection. Several enemy machine guns and mortar positions were fired on.

While operating as FO for the 375th FA Bn, Lt Watts suspended his adjustment of a defensive fire check when he heard German voices. He called to some nearby Infantry who went forward and captured 4 Krauts. Lt Watts proceeded to continue his adjustment when again he heard more voices. Following the same procedure but

without any assistance he captured 2 more Krauts. Finally after turning his prisoners in he finished his adjustment.

The Div Arty AOP located and adjusted fire on an enemy tank west of Bitché and destroyed the same.

In general activity throughout the artillery was relatively quiet, only 78 missions were fired during the period.

30 Dec 44 - Early firing during this period included harrassing, interdiction and road runner missions. Considerable fire was placed on probably enemy MSR's. Enemy troops moving in small groups were fired on throughout the front. Observers reported these troops as operating patrols.

There has been considerable enemy activity in their forward areas judging from the troop and vehicle movement observed and noises picked up by listening posts. This action may be a ruse to give the impression of an impending offensive in this sector to keep large quantities of troops tied up.

Planes definitely identified as P-47's with friendly marking attacked the CP's of the 374th and 250th FA Bns. These planes were flown by German pilots. Only 10 casualties were suffered by our troops as a result of the strafing from low altitudes.

A total of 58 missions were fired during the period, requiring the expenditure of 977 rounds of ammunition.

31 Dec 44 - A light snowfall during the night confined artillery activity to harrassing the enemy who was also digging in.

Now that the plan of defensive fires has been prepared, plans for counter-preparation and for fires to cover withdrawal to a new MIR are being worked on.

O I #26 was received which outlines the division plan for withdrawing to a new MIR should that be necessary. Included in the plan is the 255th Infantry Regiment which has just been attached to the 100th Division. Its lack of direct support artillery will cause considerable revision in Div Arty Plans.

The 373rd FA Bn fired on enemy troops and battery positions in the town of Neusswiller and on a vehicle assembly area near Bitché. In mid-morning an enemy CP was located in Neusswiller and fired on, three direct hits were scored which demolished the CP.

The 374th FA Bn fired on one column of enemy movement on the enemy MSR and caused complete dispersion of the same. Distance of the range and poor visibility prevented the determination of enemy casualties resulting.

The 375th FA Bn fired emergency barrages on enemy infiltrations and other missions on enemy strong points.

The 925th FA Bn fired preparation for strong night patrolling. One tank was damaged by a direct hit. - Twenty enemy were located and fired on in a house. Direct hits scored evidently caused many casualties as no enemy troops left the house.


Hence the month of December and the year 1944 ended with the 100th Division Artillery in defensive positions in the quadrangle Rohrbach, Meyersviller, St Louis and Rahling. There being very little activity on either side, troops wherever possible exchanged the seasons greetings with mild celebrations.

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* Date: 1 Feb 1945 *

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1 Jan 45: The 100th Division in compliance with orders from higher headquarters entered the year 1945 in the role of a defensive unit of the XV Corps front. Well dug-in positions extending from a point just south of Bitcho west to a point north west of Gros Rederching, were occupied by front-line elements.

The units of this artillery were located throughout the sector south of the MIE with many detailed fire plans available as issued from this headquarters. These plans included fires of all types that might be required to meet any enemy action. Maximum extensive communications were installed to facilitate extremely close coordination between all units should the situation develop.

For close support of the front line elements in their respective sectors and for possible support or reinforcement in adjacent sectors, units were located as follows:

- 373rd FA Bn 500 yards south of Guisberg;
- 374th FA Bn vicinity of Bining;
- 375th FA Bn vicinity of Lemberg;
- 925th FA Bn south west of Lemberg;
- 250th FA Bn vicinity of Rohrbach;
- Div Arty CP in Martbron.

The fireworks started shortly after midnight with considerable prearranged missions and barrages of all types being fired by all units. Reports indicated that the enemy was launching a preparation for a probable full scale attack. Thrusts were made by the enemy all along the front. From this time on activity fairly buzzed throughout the artillery. From a point just outside the Div Arty CP one could see the entire surrounding country flashing with artillery fire.

In detail the following enemy activity was reported throughout the period. A small tank thrust started at 0500 from Schortach and headed south toward Bitcho. This was apparently the center of the thrust. On the western edge of the sector another tank attack moved out of Obergailach and started south toward Reuling. At the same time artillery fire was received from the vicinity of Bitcho, evidently coordinated with this and in support of the foot troops; fire was received from "screaming meemies". More tanks were reported at 0820 as moving south out of Raumbach. The same tanks were picked up again at 0950 as moving south from Erching. This was further verified at 1000 when considerable enemy activity was reported in this same small town. Throughout the remainder of the day tank thrusts and enemy patrols were reported moving south across the entire front from Reuling to Mouterhouse.

In repulsing this counterattack the artillery made maximum and effective use of all previously prepared fire plans. Normal and emergency barrages, harassing missions and point target missions were fired by all battalions.

Noteworthy incident of the day was the performance of a forward observer team consisting of Lt Howard and EM Whipperast, Corbano, and Slazey, of Btry "C" 374th FA Bn. While adjusting fire from a steeple in a forward town, infiltrating enemy attempted to surround and capture the party. During a period in which most of the ammunition of the party was exhausted, they succeeded in killing a number of the Krauts and assisting the infantry in clearing the town.

The 373rd FA Bn destroyed one tank and knocked out two gun position with very effective fire. Damaging fire was directed on a column of horse-drawn vehicles.

The 374th FA Bn fired on one patrol, 11 enemy were killed and 8 more captured as a result of this action north of Rohrbach. A company of enemy infantry attempting an attack over the crest of a hill in front of the 397th infantry were repulsed three times by accurate artillery fire. At 1100 this same company reinforced by two more enemy companies and several tanks attempted an attack. Fire by this battalion reinforced by Corps artillery completely broke up the attack and caused

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a large number of enemy casualties. At 1230 30 enemy tanks were fired on and dispersed.

The 375th FA Bn in direct support of the 398th Infantry concentrated its firing for the period on enemy assembling in the town of Epping and Urbach. A neutralization mission on "screaming meemies" silenced the enemy firing.

The 925th FA Bn had continuous firing during the entire period in defense of the 398th sector on the Division right flank. Many counter-battery missions were fired. One mission on a column of horse-drawn vehicles knocked out many units of this column and caused many enemy casualties.

This period was the heaviest encountered by the 100th Div Arty since their entry into combat. Where accurate reports available, large numbers of enemy casualties and destroyed enemy materiel would be accounted for by today's firing. Missions fired totaled 151, requiring the expenditure of 5096 rounds of valuable ammunition.

- 2 Jan 45: Forward observers and other sources of observation reported that the enemy, after receiving the pounding of yesterday, were massing troops and tanks at various points along the front; presumably for thrusts later on in the day. Immediately this headquarters issued orders for continuous harassing and interdiction fires to interrupt and delay this preparation. All units were active until daylight covering all probably strong points and ISRs in their sector.

Early in the morning this headquarters moved from Northbronn to Lorentsen, closing there at 0900.

The 373rd FA Bn moved to the southern edge of Northbronn. During the day many general support missions were fired on strong point targets. Continuous fire was placed on critical road junctions and ISRs. Miscellaneous missions were fired on troops, tanks and vehicles; observers reported the FFB on all targets as excellent.

The 374th FA Bn located a battalion of enemy infantry in their sector and fired on it with Corps Artillery reinforcement; approximately 50 enemy were killed and many casualties were reported. The remainder of this battalion reassembled in a nearby draw. A Corps TOT was fired on this target by a FO, results were reported as most devastating.

Proximity of enemy foot troops caused the 375th FA Bn to displace to the vicinity of Petit Redersching. One mission fired on an enemy gun position destroyed the gun and an explosion resulting from the same firing indicated that an ammunition pile had been hit. One tank fire mission was fired on a group of enemy troops, the effect was good. Many other missions were fired by this battalion in direct support of the 398th Infantry defensive lines.

The 925th FA Bn moved early in the day to Northbronn. This battalion fired continuously throughout the day on targets of opportunity, consisting mainly of troops, vehicles, tanks and gun positions.

This period ended with the enemy still making strong thrusts on the north and east borders of our sector. They were successful in making slight gains north of Gros Redersching and in the vicinity of Sarreinsberg.

Missions fired during the period totaled 183.

- 3 Jan 45: From accurate information obtained by our observers yesterday an intensive harassing program was scheduled for the first part of the period. Complete coverage was given the entire sector to include all important road junctions, ISRs, troop and tank assembly areas, gun positions and centers of supply.

The 373rd FA Bn continued firing throughout the day on enemy installations and against enemy tank thrusts. In one instance the elements on the right flank consisting of the 1st Infantry and 117th Reconnaissance were very thinly spread across the right flank. They provided only a screening force for that sector.

Enemy intelligence, recognizing that this presented but weak resistance, proceeded to launch an armored attack. Our observers operating on that flank reported this action, whereupon the 373rd PA Bn immediately took the column under fire. They raked the entire column, a direct hit was scored on the leading tank. The attack was completely broken up as a result of this action.

In a sudden thrust on the left of the division sector the enemy advanced to positions in Gros Radeviching and Achen. A coordinated drive by the French 2nd DB and the 255th Infantry on these two towns resulted in blocking this thrust and driving the enemy from these positions.

Additional reinforcing artillery was moved into the division sector to aid in meeting and repulsing any new enemy thrusts. This included the 151st PA Bn of the 36th Division and the 498th APA Bn from XV Corps.

The 374th PA Bn had a very busy day starting with the neutralization of a large assembly of trucks and tanks in the vicinity of Reuling. An enemy observation post located by a PO was adjusted on and completely wiped out; 10 casualties were observed. A column of vehicles located in the vicinity of Guiderdich was adjusted upon and set on fire. The most profitable target of the day was a column of 10 vehicles carrying enemy personnel. Reinforcing fires by Corps Artillery was called for and 8 trucks were destroyed.

The 375th PA Bn being located near the front line fired continuously throughout the day on towns occupied by enemy installations.

The 925th PA Bn fired 1000 rounds on numerous targets in repulsing the counter-attack hitting the 399th Infantry front line. Outstanding mission was fired on a group of 4 houses occupied by the enemy. Two were set on fire and one demolished. The few troops who survived the withering fire were finished off by small arms fire.

The increased use of American vehicles and planes by the enemy and the increased air activity on both sides necessitated closer coordination between elements of the ground and air forces, hence orders were issued that all vehicles display the orange identification panels at all times.

At the close of the period all reports received indicated that the artillery firing had been so effective and had caused such large numbers of casualties that the enemy had practically ceased his offensive action along the entire front. The 187 missions fired this day requiring the expenditure of 3631 rounds of ammunition was without a doubt well utilized.

4 Jan 45: Despite admonitions to conserve ammunition of which there is a critical shortage, Div Arty has been paying out thousands of rounds daily and calling for the firing of many more by reinforcing Corps Artillery. The expenditure of this ammunition has been justified by the nature and numbers of targets fired upon. In fact, artillery has played the leading role in today's operations. We have reported the thing they fear most is artillery fire, that it has definitely disrupted their operations and cut off their supplies. Several groups of enemy have had no food due to our fire.

The bulk of artillery action has been on the flanks of the division front, which has been dangerously exposed by the withdrawal of the units defending these sectors. Recent commitment of the 36th Division on the right and the extension of the 45th Division sector should build up our flank strength and remove this threat.

The 373rd PA Bn harassed many strong points and MZs. It also reinforced the fires of the 151st PA Group in preparation for a counterattack.

The 374th PA Bn had a very busy day firing on enemy troops and materiel. Exceptionally accurate rocket fire on two occasions accounted for approximately

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150 enemy casualties. Other firing knocked out 1 mortar position, 3 machine guns, and burned 3 vehicles.

The 375th FA Bn in support of the 397th Infantry operating in the center of the division sector had a relatively light day, only firing 10 missions. These were on enemy dugouts and probable rocket positions.

The 925th FA Bn fired observed missions almost continuously in support of the 399th Infantry defenses. This firing was active throughout the period on targets of opportunity presented by the constant enemy activity in the sector.

The 131st FA Bn reverted to the control of the 38th Division Artillery at 1500.

The 250 FA Bn was very active reinforcing the fires of the 131st FA Bn and firing point target missions in its zone of fire.

The 495 APA neutralized machine gun positions with white phosphorous and scored many direct hits at long range on sniper-concealing houses reported by our infantry.

The Div Arty Air OP flew 18 missions including registration barrages and adjustments.

Missions fired for the period totaled 144 requiring the expenditure of 2309 rounds of ammunition.

5 Jan 45: This period opened with everything quiet on the front. All units carried on the usual harrasing programs on possible enemy assembly areas, strong points and MSR's. Many TOT's and concentrations were fired on known enemy installations located during the preceding day. Among these were enemy battery positions accurately reported by two Russian PW's and pin point locations of important enemy CP's reported by a disgruntled German operations sergeant. All of these were verified and heavy firing placed on them.

Considerable enemy artillery was thrown at us throughout the period. This included calibers from the smallest to 280mm which is really a big fellow.

The fluid condition of our left flank which has caused considerable concern for the past 38 hours has been stabilized by the 44th Division, which pushed forward and drove the enemy back, securing the ground in that sector. This action all made for a more united front and relieved the anxiety of the 100th Division over the possibilities of a large scale attack on that flank. It definitely established the status of Gros Roderding.

The 373rd FA Bn displaced during the day to the vicinity of Guisberg and immediately took up firing general support missions. This included many defensive fires on enemy installations.

The 374th FA Bn was forced to displace south of Bining due to constant 280mm shelling by the enemy. They fired normal barrages and defensive fires in support of the 397th Infantry. Very excellent results were obtained with ricochet fire on enemy troops and WP on enemy gun positions. Erching was marked for a TAC attack by using smoke.

The 375th FA Bn was very active harrasing enemy installations throughout the period. A TOT was fired on enemy AA batteries located in Bitch. One enemy dug-out was knocked out with a direct hit by using T-105 fuze. Ricochet fire was also used by this battalion on enemy troops.

The 925th FA Bn displaced to the northern edge of Knochenberg and continued firing on targets of opportunity. This unit was very busy with missions in the division NW sector in support of the 397th defensive positions there. These missions included mortars, enemy troops, battery positions and MSR's.

The Div Arty AOP flew 20 missions including the placing of fire on several columns of vehicles, which caused considerable destruction.

A total of 126 missions were fired during this period. Reports indicated that an unusually large number of enemy casualties resulted.

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6 Jan 45: Evidently the extremely heavy artillery delivered on the enemy yesterday caused them to withdraw from any further offensive action and to attempt reorganization. Very little enemy activity was noted throughout the entire period on the front. Occasional targets picked up by ground observers had appropriate fire placed on them. Visibility prevented any observation by the Air OP.

The left flank of the Division continues to be rather insecure due to the enemy's sudden seizure of Gros Rederching. This threat will be removed by the commitment of the 255th Infantry to the 398th sector and the movement of the 398th to the left flank. Also the formation of the 394th Group which includes the 495th APA will increase the artillery fire available for the protection of the left flank. The 375th PA Bn was placed in direct support of the 255th Infantry as a result of the above transfer. This is the first appearance of the 255th Infantry in the front line.

Heavy activity throughout the period in the vicinity of Moraville Farm was added to by the continuous fire by the 374th PA Group. Later all of the division and Corps Artillery that could be massed on this strong point were alerted and layed on it. Upon investigation aided by illuminating shells fired by the 924 Tds, it was found that only a part of the planned TOT would be necessary. This TOT was repeated later when more activity was reported at the same point.

The 373rd PA Bn fired 13 harassing missions in general support of the division front.

The 374th PA Bn fired normal barrages and adjustments on many targets of opportunity. This unit also participated in several TOTs.

The 375th PA Bn fired extensive harassing fires during the night to cover the relief of the 398th Infantry by the 255th Infantry. Harassing fires were also placed on MREs throughout the day.

The 925th PA Bn guns boomed during most of the period. One "juicy" target fired on was 40 enemy troops who were caught in pre-arranged registered fire with excellent results. Ricochet fire was very effective on several machine gun and mortar positions. One active enemy rocket position was fired on first by this battalion then followed by a Corps TOT. The rocket was no longer heard from.

The 250th PA Bn reinforced the fires of the 925th PA Bn. Propaganda shells were fired in Ditzels and Meyersviller.

A total of 89 missions were fired for the period which required the expenditure of 1350 rounds of ammunition.

7 Jan 45: Another comparatively quiet day was spent by the Division Artillery, due to the decreased enemy activity in this sector and also to the very poor observation throughout the period.

Continuing the defensive role with boundaries unchanged, the Division has been highly successful in repulsing all enemy thrusts thus far thrown at us. The artillery with and attached to the division rendered effective and accurate support accounting for a large number of enemy casualties and destruction of much enemy material.

Weather conditions provided but poor visibility, thus grounding the "cob" planes. This lifted restrictions on the use of Pozit which was fired by all units throughout the day.

Shortly after the formation of the 374th PA Group, consisting of the 374th PA Bn and the 495th APA, the latter was relieved and replaced by the 40th APA (French). This group was placed in direct support of the 397th Infantry defending the left flank of the Division.

The 373rd PA Bn harassed critical road junctions, troop concentrations, supply routes and suspected rocket positions. No outstanding targets of opportunity were located.

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The 374th FA Bn fired harassing missions during the night. Mortar positions and enemy troops were fired on with exceptionally good effect, many troops were killed. Increased snow flurries prevented distant firing.

The 375th FA Bn fired many road runners and continuously raked a corridor of approach. One mission fired on a house containing enemy troops was heavily repaid; the objective was completely demolished by four direct hits.

The 925th FA Bn located and neutralized a troublesome self-propelled gun west of Bitch. Additional firing silenced one rocket position, 2 mortars and one machine gun position.

The 250th FA Bn, reinforcing the fires of the 925th FA Bn, fired many neutralizing and harassing missions. Two heavy enemy mortars were silenced in one mission.

The transfer of some responsibility from the 435th FA Bn to the 40th AFA Bn was effected at 1500.

The Div Arty Air OP was relatively quiet during the entire period due to limited visibility. Of the two missions flown, one included a successful adjustment on a farmhouse containing troops.

At the close of the period the threat on the left flank still existed due to the 44th Division's inability to push the line forward, and thereby closing the gap.

8 Jan 45: The day started with little activity in evidence on either side. Ammunition restrictions limited the artillery battalions to Div Arty controlled firing on known enemy strong points and MSR in the area Rialing to Bitch.

The Division right and left flanks continued to be the "hot spots" of the line of defense. These weak spots were caused by withdrawals of the 44th Division on the left and the 40th Division on the right. Successful attacks by the 399th Infantry to gain high ground in the vicinity of Spitzberg called for preparations and continuous heavy artillery support by the 525th and 250th FA Bns with the 373rd FA Bn rendering support when required.

The 373rd FA Bn in addition to normal reinforcing missions fired on an enemy CP with very good effect. One other successful mission was fired on a large vehicle assembly area.

The 374th FA Bn with the 40th AFA Bn supporting the 397th Infantry on the left flank fired continually from 0400 until 1730 against enemy assault groups consisting of tanks and foot troops. These thrusts all came from the area just NE of Gros Rederching. Despite this heavy artillery pounding which caused many casualties and knocked out many tanks, the enemy persisted and were successful in getting one small group through. A total of 28 missions were fired on these enemy troop movements.

The 375th FA Bn in direct support of the 250th Infantry which held their sector against minor enemy thrusts had a relatively quiet day. Missions fired included harassing missions on MSRs, enemy troops and gun positions. One mission fired on an enemy CP silenced its operation with direct hits.

The 925th FA Bn and 250th FA Bn, giving direct support to the 399th Infantry sector, had a very busy day. In addition to the constant repulsing of the counter-attack mentioned above they fired many missions on targets of opportunity. These included enemy troops, mortar positions, tank assemblies, and observation points.

Due to poor visibility the Div Arty AOP flew but 5 missions, one of which was placing fire on a column of enemy vehicles. Results reported the mission effective.

Just prior to the end of the period O I #9 100th Inf Div was issued to this headquarters. Information contained therein was released to initiate necessary plans of defense should a strong enemy thrust necessitate withdrawal. The tentative MSR established would be a line through Achen, Petit Rederching and Reversviller.

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Although all plans are in readiness it is hoped the withdrawal to this new line will not be necessary.

9 Jan 45: The enemy continued its attempt to break our defenses on the right and left flanks with many strong tank and troop thrusts. To disrupt organization for the attacks on the left many TOTs were fired on Reuling, Breching, Gunderkirch, and Morenville Farms.

Operations during the period were difficult due to a drop in the temperature, light snow and very limited visibility. In spite of these handicaps the artillery was active throughout the period.

The 373rd PA Bn placed harrassing fires on many enemy installations whose locations were given by PWs. In one instance 10 enemy troops walked directly into a pre-arranged fire point and were left dead after the shells landed among them.

The 374th PA Bn supporting the defense of the hottest sector of the front fired numerous defensive fires and other missions against groups of enemy tanks and troops which were infiltrating through the left flank. In another mission one tank was knocked out and one halftrack destroyed, a large number of personnel casualties were also accounted for in the same action. A large fire was started after one concentration was placed in Reuling.

The 375th PA Bn harrassed Eppingen, Shortach and Housseviller throughout the period. Neutralization of a persistent enemy OP was the only high spot of firing for this unit.

Two strong counterattacks on the right flank were met by pre-arranged fires of the 925th PA Group as well as the 373rd PA Bn. Both attacks were reported repulsed by this fire. Other missions fired by this group included neutralization of enemy installations, smoke screens for troop movements and pre-arranged fires on enemy strong points, and MSRs.

Observers' reports received at this headquarters at the close of the period revealed that the artillery fire was again the biggest factor in breaking up the enemy's attempt to pierce our lines. Considerable use was made of enemy strong points both probable and actual included in the pre-arranged plans previously issued.

10 Jan 45: Increased enemy pressure on the town of Reuling necessitated the withdrawal of the 397th Infantry from this town. This was covered with a protective curtain of fire by the 209th PA Group and the 194th PA Bn. Immediately after the withdrawal of all friendly troops a devastating TOT was fired by all available artillery on the town; even from a distance the entire area gave the appearance of a "hell of fire".

All units spent a normal day firing defensive fires, harrassing road junctions and MSRs, and firing on enemy strong points. Included in the latter for the period were many groups of enemy troops. Reuling was marked by the 374th PA Bn for a plastering by the 12th TAC.

The 375th PA Bn adjusted on a column of enemy on the road from Ormsviller to Eppingen; many enemy were killed as a result of the firing.

The Div Arty ACP having good visibility for the first time in several days were able to fly 17 missions. Many targets were located and fired on during these operations.

11 Jan 45: Having attempted many thrusts at several points along the entire front and being met with deadly artillery fire at each point, the enemy finally withdrew; probably to reorganize and plan future operations.

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The 373rd FA Bn placed harassing volleys on critical crossroads in the Reysersviller-Bitche area.

The 374th FA Bn sprinkled Pozit fire with very good effect on enemy in dug-in positions and caught one enemy patrol in the open, killing an indetermined number.

The 375th FA Bn harassed the Wohlenster-Hausseviller road with Pozit and fuse quick fire and blasted many assembly areas. Road runners and interdiction fires were also placed on known enemy installations.

The 925th FA Bn also fired on the road not in the vicinity of Reysersviller with Pozit. This unit was quite active during the period, firing a total of 28 missions which included as targets enemy troops, mortars, machine guns and tanks. The effect of these missions were reported as excellent.

The Div Arty has been receiving regular support from Corps Artillery, which has been assigned the mission of firing nightly on the towns of Lengelsheim, Peppenheim, Erching, Kottviller, Ormersviller, and Rinsling where many enemy installations are located according to PW reports. The firing has consisted mainly of Pozit and fuse quick.

Now that the division is again in a more or less stable situation, a new coordinated fire plan of defensive fires has been drafted and distributed. This will assure a maximum massing of fire on any corridor of approach that the enemy might choose for another attack.

While operating with advance elements of the 397th Infantry as a forward observer, 1st Lt Benson, 374th FA Bn, was injured in the leg.

Guiderkirch, which is a probably base for enemy operations, was heavily plastered during the closing hours of this period by Corps Artillery as requested by this headquarters.

Although there has been considerable shifting in the front line units for better operating purposes and to provide a little rest for the troops, the position of the Division front line has remained unchanged.

12 Jan 45: Failure of the enemy to attain his objectives in the 1st Army sector, his present withdrawal and the absence of activity in this sector have raised the question as to where he will strike next. With two possible points namely Bitche and Rinsling as probable locations of attack, all necessary plans have been drawn up to repulse any such threat. In addition successive MREs have been selected in case withdrawals become necessary. Local security has been greatly increased in the event small groups of enemy troops make a break through.

The 373rd FA Bn interdicted critical road junctions in the vicinity of Reysersviller and splashed Pozit on dug-in troops.

The 374th FA Bn aided by the firing of the 40th AAA placed several volleys on enemy troop activity, checked defensive fires and fired propaganda shells, which landed in the towns of Erching, Guiderkirch, and Muenzville Farm.

The 375th FA Bn located near the front lines, fired on harassing small arms fire during the night. Other missions were fired on the towns of Dollerbach, Hausseviller and Epping to interfere with enemy troops reportedly concentrating there.

The 925th FA Bn sprinkled Pozit on enemy infantry in dug-in positions during the night. Propaganda shells were also fired on Schwangerbach, Reysersviller and Bitche for enemy troops located therein. Experimental registrations were fired with Pozit to determine the effectiveness of high-angle fire. Results indicate that a better height of burst with this type of fire even though the resulting dispersion is greater is obtained.

critical road junctions and troop concentrations - 3 - volleys. The 374th FA Bn placed several volleys on enemy troops.

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The Div Arty AOP was limited to 5 patrols during the period due to poor visibility.

13 Jan 45:

Normal interdiction and harrasing missions were fired during the early part of this period. Limitations were placed on the expenditure of ammunition due to a critical shortage. In view of this an effort is being made to build up an emergency reserve.

Capt Walter A. Hanson of "B" Btry, 374th FA Bn, suffered severe injury to his right hand from contact with a grenade when moving a detail of men into a dugout.

Lt Preston R. Chambliss, 374th FA Bn, with his complete FO party is reported missing and is believed to be prisoner of war. He was operating forward with elements of the 397th Infantry in the vicinity of Guising.

The 373rd FA Bn fired on the town of Bitch and Reysviller during the period.

The activity of the 374th FA Bn included neutralization of two machine gun positions, destruction of two vehicles, and dispersion of a group of enemy troops.

The 375th FA Bn showered Shorbach and Eppingen with Pozit. Small groups of enemy troops were fired on in Guiderkirch. AP ammunition was used to route a group of Krauts from an enemy OP.

The 925th FA Bn fired concentrations on critical road junctions and MREs in the vicinity of Reysviller and Bitch. Two mortar positions were neutralized with other firing.

The Div Arty AOP had a busy day flying 18 missions and obtaining much information about enemy installations and movements.

Field Order #6 Hq 7th Army received today sets up new boundaries placing the VI Corps on the right of XV Corps, and the XXI Corps on the left. Within the XV Corps this division has the 30th Division on the right and the 44th Division on the left. Units of the 2nd French DB remain within the XV Corps sector providing combat reconnaissance and the mission of neutralization in the event of an armored counterattack in this area. The 12th TAC continues with its mission of close support to the XV Corps.

New missions of the XV Corps and the 100th Division is to maintain and improve present defensive positions and also organize successive delaying positions along the corridor of withdrawal. Artillery units have been instructed to reconnoiter and plan for successive positions coordinated with the successive positions of the MREs.

In the event of a complete change of all operations, plans have been drafted for and attack on and seizure of the Maginot line.

As the period closed reports received on enemy activity indicated that no immediate threat was expected.

14 Jan 45: Continued inactivity along the entire front marked a very quiet night for all artillery units. This was welcomed by troops who were having "rough" going in the blowing snow and low temperatures prevalent throughout the sector.

The 373rd FA Bn harassed road junctions, regimental CPs, mortar positions, dug-in troops, and the town of Bitch and Reysviller with intermittent rounds. One tank was disabled by a direct hit, then destroyed later by three direct hits.

The 374th FA Bn had the first light day for some time, firing only 8 missions. One mission destroyed two vehicles, another set fire to an ammunition dump.

The 375th FA Bn fired on the two or three groups of enemy who appeared on the scene in the Epping area.

The 925th FA Bn sprinkled Pozit at odd intervals on dug-in troops and vital road junctions. Other missions included firing on machine gun and mortar positions.

The 250th FA Bn fired on Schwangerbach and Reysviller, and dropped Pozit on critical road junctions and troop concentrations. One other mission consisted of the delivery of propaganda shells to enemy front line troops.

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15 Jan 45: Full advantage is being taken by the division artillery units of the inactivity on the entire front to catch up on administrative and maintenance functions, improve local security and for experimental firing with Pozit.

Operating from the same locations and with the same missions, all units remained alert in their defensive positions for any move the enemy might make. All personnel were acquainted with the various defensive plans available to repulse or delay any serious enemy thrusts.

Artillery activity during the early part of the period constituted harrassing fires placed on MSRs, road junctions, enemy troop installations, and suspected vehicle assembly points. All battalions participated in this firing intermittently.

During the day firing continued on tanks, vehicles, troops and battery positions all of which were minor targets. All firing totaled 62 missions.

16 Jan 45: Principal operations in the artillery are the preparation of plans and obtaining of all necessary information necessary to meet any possible action which the enemy might take.

Activity consisted of neutralization of AA locations in the vicinity of Bitché by the 12th TAC, harrassing and interdiction missions, Pozit firing on Shorbach, Brandel, Fingerhoh, Parn, Epping, Housseviller, and Weiskirch; and a few missions on targets of opportunity.

Bombing of Bitché by the 12th TAC drew fire from the AA batteries located there. Flashes from these guns were picked up by the alert observers of the 375th FA Bn who called immediately for fire on these position. Four well placed volleys neutralized these positions.

The Div Arty ACP flew 14 missions and reported that the results of firing observed were extremely accurate and many enemy casualties could be seen.

17 Jan 45: Fog, haze and intermittent snow greatly hindered observation and grounded all liaison planes. A few observed registrations and unobserved harrassing missions were fired.

Enemy artillery fire was dumped on the 925, 373, and 250 FA Bns at 2100; they replied with three TOTs on suspected enemy battery positions in the vicinity of Meyersviller. In another instance 70 rounds were fired by enemy artillery on "B" Btry of the 373rd FA Bn, blowing out wire communications which were shortly restored by an active wire crew.

This was one of the lightest days of activity for the artillery for many weeks.

18 Jan 45: Outstanding opposition during this period was old man weather, whose elements limited both ground and air visibility to close in targets. These were very few in number, as the enemy activity observed was limited to small patrols and reconnaissance vehicles moving throughout the enemy sector.

Firing a total of 76 missions which included harrassing known enemy installations with unobserved fire, interdicting critical road junctions, and MSRs, and miscellaneous observed missions on targets of opportunity.

The outstanding target fired on was a column of 35 enemy troops and two vehicles. These were plastered with Pozit. Many casualties were reported.

This lull in activity is most welcome at this time as the supply of ammunition is critical, hence all units will be able to build up their reserve supply.

Late during the period the 141st Infantry supported by the 131st FA Bn, both from the 36th Division, were attached to the 100th Division. They continued to defend the sector along the Division front just east of Lambach.

The 300 and 100th FA Bns also fired several harrassing and defensive missions. Judging from the inactivity -10- the enemy front, it is evident that the weather is also affecting their operations. IV reports reveal that considerable reorganization is also in progress.

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19 Jan 45: Continued inclement weather restricted the artillery activity to but a few observed missions during this period. The Div Arty AOP was grounded, being blanketed out by heavy fog during the morning and high winds during the afternoon.

The 373rd PA Bn moved "A" and "C" batteries to an area SW of Montbronn. Their former positions, 1000 yards S of Guisberg, were occupied by the 202d PA Bn.

Late in the period the 925th PA Bn fired 100 rounds of propaganda throughout known enemy areas.

As only 62 missions were fired, units were again able to add ammunition to their reserve supply.

20 Jan 45: The heaviest snow of the season fell during this period. Movement and observation were greatly restricted which limited artillery to very little activity. Full advantage was taken of these few spare hours to further improve all defensive positions and to add protection for troops against the possibility of continued snow storms and real winter conditions.

Artillery activity was restricted to unobserved fires, mainly harassing missions including road runners, enemy forward elements, mortars and some enemy patrols.

This headquarters moved to Montbronn and closed there at 1100. Installations were set up in two large school buildings located in the center of the town.

21 Jan 45: Again adverse weather conditions, namely snow and haze, restricted both enemy and friendly operations.

During the early hours of the period harassing fires were placed on enemy installations throughout the sector bounded by Bitché on the E and Rimling on the W. All units participated in this firing and in prearranged fire plans issued from this headquarters.

During the day several TOTs coordinated with Corps Artillery were fired on Bitché. Many lucrative targets located by observers were plastered with other TOTs.

The 375th PA Bn caught an enemy CP by surprise and brought it under fire immediately. Five enemy were killed in this action.

The 925th PA Bn fired on a group of enemy troops with very excellent effect. Resulting casualties were not determined but screaming of enemy could be heard through the din of shellburst.

A total of 70 missions were fired during this period, requiring the expenditure of 418 rounds of ammunition.

22 Jan 45: Poor visibility and snow-covered ground limited operations throughout the division sector for all artillery units. Commanders utilized all available materials to camouflage installations to blend in with the snow. Front line troops and vehicles were also given similar treatment.

The 373rd PA Bn fired 9 normal missions which included one on a troop column moving in a draw near Spitzberg. A precision adjustment on this target by an alert observer caused many casualties and knocked out one tank.

The 374th PA Bn fired 13 normal missions. The high spot was firing placed on a group of enemy personnel laying a mine field south of Rimling. Several casualties resulted and the mine laying operation was completely disrupted.

The 375th PA Bn fired but 8 normal missions on miscellaneous area targets. During the afternoon this unit moved its CP to Montbronn.

The 925th PA Bn fired 13 missions including registrations and normal defensive fires on area targets. A registration fired on a church steeple in Royersviller caused 12 enemy casualties.

The 250 and 131st PA Bns also fired normal harassing and defensive missions. Judging from the inactivity along the enemy front, it is evident that the weather is also affecting their operations. PW reports reveal that considerable reorganization is also in progress.

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23 Jan 45: Night firing during the early part of this period consisted mainly of pre-arranged harrassing fires on enemy troops and installations. Many enemy night patrols moving along roads included in this firing were dispersed.

Visibility improved in the middle of the period to the extent that both air and ground observers were able to locate sufficient targets for the firing of 52 missions by all units. These included normal registrations, defensive fire checks, and harrassing enemy troops and installations.

24 Jan 45: Inactivity again prevailed during most of the period. Observed missions included registrations and propaganda missions covering the enemy front lines.

Several area targets including machine guns, battery positions, enemy patrols and mortar positions were fired on with excellent results.

The 374th FA Bn and 202d FA Bn made preparation to move their fire possibilities to the left sufficiently to cover any threat from the Rimling-Gros Rederching sector.

Brig Gen Patch, Comdr of the 35th Div Arty, visited this headquarters to coordinate operations with this division in the near future.

Operations instruction #19 Hq 100th Infantry Division as of this date revealed that this division continues its present defense mission, and that the 377th Procht FA Bn would be attached to 100th Div Arty until released to the 101st AB Division.

G-2 reports that the enemy has been moving large numbers of troops into the area NE and E of Bitché which may mean preparations for an attack from the east.

25 Jan 45: Reports were received that the enemy was moving large numbers of troops into Bitché. Orders were immediately issued for the firing of 3 TOTs to neutralize this action. Included in the firing was the 925, 375, 350, 772 and 202 FA Bn. Other night firing included 10 interdiction missions on roads and road junctions in the vicinity of Bitché. Corps Arty also fired 240mm Posit in the same area.

The 375 FA Bn moved from Montbronn to vicinity of Petit Rederching to cover the 398th sector which covers the division right flank. Upon the completion of this move the 374th Group was formed with CD 374 FA Bn commanding.

The 373 FA Bn fired on enemy CPs, whose location was given by a PW. This was located in the vicinity of Swangerlach and Bitché. Adjustment was made with HE followed by fuse delay for destructive purposes. This was further followed by smoke with delay fuse, thus burning materiel that might be located in these houses. Later information revealed that the house fired on in the vicinity of Bitché was being used as a rest camp by enemy troops.

The artillery fired a total of 75 missions during this period which was largely harrassing missions placed on enemy installations and supply points.

26 Jan 45: Continued snow and adverse ground surface conditions restricted all units to little activity during this period. Enemy activity was also negligible across the entire front. The usual registrations were fired and effectively combined with defensive fire checks. One prearranged mission was fired by the 373 FA Bn on an enemy CP located in the vicinity of Bitché, results were reported as excellent.

Targets of opportunity were few in number, all units firing during the period again consisted mainly of harrassing fires on enemy installations and strong resistance points.

27 Jan 45: From activity observed within the enemy lines it is quite apparent that they have resorted to defensive tactics with small patrols circulating throughout their sector for normal control purposes. This division, continuing their defensive mission is maintaining complete observation of all areas bordering our front lines.

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The artillery mission in the above action consisted mainly of a prepared plan of defensive fires periodically checked for accuracy and firing on all targets either known or probable.

Firing during the day included many unobserved harrassing missions on enemy mortars, troops, CP, HQs, and supply installations.

High angle registration was tried by several units and proved to be very effective and quite accurate.

The 374th FA Bn located an enemy patrol consisting of twenty troops at 2300 in the vicinity of Rimling. Rapid firing on this group resulted in killing four and inflicting an unknown number of casualties.

The 373rd FA Bn located another enemy CP in the vicinity of Swangerbach and gave it an artillery treatment known as "Sudden Death". In rapid succession 4 volleys were fired on the house. The first volley was Pozit to neutralize any personnel around the exterior of the CP. The second volley fired was HE fuse delay, intended to penetrate the house and neutralize the enemy therein. The third volley WP fuse delay was placed on the house to burn it and smoke out the occupants. The fourth and final volley was Pozit poured around the house to polish off any remaining Jerries that might attempt to escape from the smoke.

This headquarters issued annex to FO #7 Hq 100th Infantry Division, which included information relative to new gun positions required of all units in support of alternate MRS as prescribed by Div headquarters. Defensive fire plan #5 was also drafted and issued to all units on this date.

Other units made good use of Pozit on small groups of enemy moving within the zone of observation.

A total of 72 missions were fired during this period. Small expenditures of ammunition during these days is a definite aid to the critical shortage which has hampered our operations for some time.

28 Jan 45: Early activity consisted of harrassing fires throughout the night, on Weiskirch and Epping. Other night firing included harrassing missions on known and suspected enemy installations.

Inclement weather during this period and inactivity on the enemy sectors resulted in an exceptionally quiet day. A small number of unobserved missions constituted the only activity in the artillery.

29 Jan 45: Clear weather conditions throughout the division area provided excellent observation for both ground and air observers. As a result, registrations and defensive fire checks were made early in the day by all units. One highlight in the day's operations was the firing of the one millionth round of the XV Corps by the corps Commander on the Citadel in Bitche.

The 373 FA Bn fired on a group of houses reported as an enemy rest area located east of Bitche. Five houses were set on fire with WP and one destroyed by a direct hit with HE shell.

The 374 FA Bn neutralized a total of 9 mortar positions in the Rimling area. These same mortars had been harrassing our troops during the past few days when inclement weather prevented observation.

In another mission many casualties were inflicted on a group of 30 enemy troops with accurately placed Pozit.

The 375th FA Bn fired early during the period on Epping and the hills immediately south of this town. Troop concentrations had been reported in these locations. Later during the day this unit displaced to Montbronn.

The 925th FA Bn fired smoke shell on 40 enemy dug-in on a hill in the vicinity of Steinkoppe. Following this flushing they saturated the area with HE shell. The

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same treatment was given the town of Steinkopf where the enemy is reported to be operating. Later in the day interdiction fires were placed on a crossroad near Schwangerbach where movements of troops were reported.

A total of 84 missions were fired during this period.

30 Jan 45: Night firing included harassing missions on enemy installations and points included in the pre-arranged fire plan.

The 374th FA Bn displaced to the vicinity of Petit Rederching and established new defensive positions.

Artillery firing during the day was very light. Harassing enemy troops either dug-in or concealed in houses constituted the majority of targets fired on.

The 925th FA Bn moved one 105mm howitzer into the front lines and used direct fire on a house in Reysersviller containing enemy personnel. In minimum of time the house and occupants were completely destroyed. Another smoke-Pozit combination mission was fired on another enemy group causing a large number of casualties.

During the hours of good visibility a coordinated operation between planes and Pozit firing was tried. Briefly the liaison planes were assigned a zone 2000 to 3000 yards in front of battery positions in which they could operate. This area was also limited by a 2000 foot ceiling. All batteries firing Pozit controlled trajectory of all missions to areas outside of this assigned plane area.

31 Jan 45: Contrary to the normal procedure, unobserved harassing missions were fired during daylight hours instead of the usual night program. Even though visibility was poor, which the enemy contends stops our firing, these missions were thrown out in full force.

The 373rd FA Bn dumped several missions on Ditsche and took several more pieces out of the Citadel. Their targets were fired on throughout the period.

The 374th FA Bn swept its sector with effective harassing fires. In one instance 12 enemy laying mines were caught "cold" in the open and made still colder by some accurately placed Pozit.

The 925th FA Bn repeated yesterday's performance by again leveling buildings in Reysersviller with 105mm howitzers located in the front lines and using direct fire methods.

This month ends with all units maintaining defensive positions in the area bounded by Epping-Brach on the west and Sarreinsberg in the southeast. The central axis of the sector defended by the 100th Division having a NE-SW direction.

Having encountered little activity during the latter part of this month, much needed maintenance has been completed and troops have been favored with a few of the SSO recreational activities. Morale is extremely high throughout considering the severity of weather conditions.

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Auth: CG 100 Div Arty
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*Date: 2 March 1945 *

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1 Feb 45: The 100th Division enters this month much richer through the experiences gained after one full month on the line in the defensive position. Many times the enemy threw forces superior in number against the Division's scattered elements only to be thrown back each time and suffer large losses of materiel and personnel. The Artillery feels justly proud of its effectiveness and efficiency of operation which played a major role throughout. Many reports from PWs and friendly troops verify the fact that artillery fire definitely slowed down and stopped the enemy attack which otherwise would have caused the Division to give valuable ground.

The front line elements now occupy well dug-in positions from a point west of Epping-Urbach south-east to Sarreinsberg, a coverage of approximately 15000 meters.

The units of this artillery were located throughout the sector with many detailed fire plans available as issued from this headquarters. These plans included fires of all types that might be required to meet any enemy action. Maximum extensive communications were installed to guarantee extremely close coordination between all units should the situation develop.

For close support of the front line elements in their various sectors and for possible support or reinforcement in adjacent sectors, units were located as follows:

373rd FA Bn - 500 yards southwest of Montbronn.

374th FA Bn - Vicinity of Petite Rederching.

375th FA Bn - Vicinity of Montbronn.

925th FA Bn - Vicinity of Echenberg.

250 FA Bn - 1000 yards northwest of Echenberg.

Div Arty Hq - Montbronn.

Heavy snow and cold weather combined with the mountainous terrain made all operations difficult. Visibility was quite limited thereby confining the firing during this period to normal harrassing and interdiction missions. Most adjustments were made by ground observers on close-in targets.

The 373 FA Bn fired on targets in Bitche and Mouterhouse.

The 925 FA Bn fired on several small groups of enemy troops in Reysersviller.

A general survey of units made by various staff officers indicated that combat efficiency was excellent and that all materiel was in an excellent state of maintenance.

2 Feb 45: Light winds and higher temperatures cleared the skys and provided excellent observation for both ground and air OPs. The air OP flew 23 sorties, the largest number flown in many days.

The 374th FA Bn fired on an assembly of vehicles and caused a violent explosion in the area. Another motor pool containing 10 vehicles was plastered with a TOT.

One observer of the 375 FA Bn located a German chow line and effectively harrassed the same with Pozit firing. Propaganda shell was fired in the vicinity of Bitche.

The 925 FA Bn fired on enemy troops, machine guns, and dugouts. One direct hit was scored on a house in Bitche containing enemy personnel.

The 250 FA Bn harrassed enemy installations in Reysersviller. These included one group of 12 men and another of 2 officers. One harrassing smoke mission was fired on known enemy AA batteries in the vicinity of Bitche to provide protection for a low-flying 12th TAC bombing mission in that area.

3 Feb 45: Unobserved harrassing missions consumed the majority of the day's activity. Inclement weather prevented any air observation. Limited observed missions by the ground observers included registrations, defensive fire checks, propaganda, and a small number of point targets.

The 375th fired on an enemy 20mm AA gun and was successful in destroying the same. The forward observer adjusting fire saw the gun blown from the pit.

No other artillery action was required thus marking another day of very light artillery action.

4 Feb 45: This period opened with visibility being quite limited. Normal registrations and interdiction fires were showered on enemy installations throughout the sector.

The 373 FA Bn fired 11 missions on Meyersviller and Mouterhouse. These included the usual harrassing firing on observed enemy activity.

The 374th FA Bn fired 23 missions on troops in the vicinity of Epping. One load of propaganda was dumped on the same area.

The 375th FA Bn had a "field day", firing a record number of unobserved missions on machine gun, mortar, and troop installations.

The 925th FA Bn fired 15 missions on enemy installations in the vicinity of Bitche.

5 Feb 45: Persistent bad weather limited both ground and air observation during this period. Much higher temperatures combined with light rains made all travel quite difficult. In many battalion areas, very thin mud was two feet deep.

Normal registrations and defensive fire checks were fired. The usual harrassing program was plastered on all known enemy troop installations. A complete coverage was made of the entire Division front with these missions.

A total of 81 missions were fired by all units during this period.

6 Feb 45: Improved weather conditions afforded fair ground and air observation. All observers made a complete search of their zones of responsibility but found no noticeable change in enemy operations. A very heavy harrassing and interdiction program was fired during the early part of this period.

Heavy mud in all areas continued to restrict movement, and in some battery positions difficulty was encountered in keeping guns in their positions.

In an effort to wipe out an enemy battery located 1500 yards SE of Bitche, a variety shower of artillery from all battalions was poured on this battery. A total of 334 rounds of ammunition was expended. Another high light of the day's firing was a mission fired by the 374th FA Bn on a group of nine Krauts caught in the open. The completed mission tolled 6 dead and 1 wounded.

The Div Arty Air OP was forced to fly all missions without observers due to the inability of the planes to take-off in the heavy mud with a load in excess of the pilot.

7 Feb 45: Heavy rain and more mud made this period one of little activity. Harrassing and interdiction missions were fired in accordance with normal plans. The usual registrations and defensive fire checks were also made.

This headquarters, having been appointed the Headquarters of the Town Commander of Montbronn, has taken on the atmosphere of a Mayor's office. Miscellaneous duties to be supervised include road building, billeting, health and sanitation checking, garbage disposal, security issuance of passes, and traffic control.

8 Feb 45: Improved weather conditions provided better air and ground observation, thence all observers were active in their search for enemy of any type. A new Division Artillery policy of firing a TOT on one enemy front line troop unit in each sector has given the Krauts something to ponder over.

The 373rd FA Bn gave Mouterhouse a good plastering during this period with practically every type of shell they had.

The 374th FA Bn made a bulls-eye when they killed a Kraut during a registration on a check point. They fired a profitable mission on a group of enemy in the vicinity of Epping-Urbach. A total of 14 enemy were killed when the firing had stopped.

All other units fired normal missions throughout the period.

9 Feb 45: Average observation made possible the location of a few targets of opportunity which were eagerly fired on by restless gun crews.

The 373rd FA Bn harrassed Mouterhouse and Meyersviller with some very effective firing.

The 374th FA Bn experimented with clearing a mine field with artillery fire. A path 10 yards wide was cleared with 25 rounds of HE fuze quick. 10 mines were destroyed during the firing. Tests with Pozit and High Angle HE to do the same job proved ineffective. Two curious Krauts were caught in this action.

The 925th FA Bn knocked out 1 German while in Meyersviller. This unit fired 75 rounds of propaganda shell on the Meyersviller-Bitche area.

The usual harrassing missions and registrations were fired by other units during the period.

10 Feb 45: Old man weather threw the book at us during this period. Rain, snow, sleet, wind, and fog were the elements that units operated under during most of the time.

Combined units fired a TOT on bridges east of Bitche with very destructive results.

The 373rd FA Bn burned down two houses in Meyersviller with WP shell fuze delay. Other missions fired by the battalion were normal.

The 374th FA Bn killed 4 enemy during their firing on Epping. A repeated registration caught two more in the same spot.

The firing during this period consisted of 90 missions which were largely unobserved harrassing missions on known and probable enemy installations.

The Div Arty Air OP was still hampered by muddy field conditions.

11 Feb 45: Heavy rain continued to restrict all operations; notwithstanding, targets were fired on during the period. The normal registrations and harrassing missions were fired. The 342 AFA Bn was attached to the 100th Div Arty during the period. They went into positions in the vicinity of Enchenberg and formed the 375th Group, with the CO of the 375th FA Bn commanding.

12 Feb 45: Bad weather coupled with little enemy activity confined artillery action to normal registrations and unobserved harrassing missions. A total of 74 missions were fired during the day.

13 Feb 45: This day opened with the pleasant surprise of excellent weather, affording both ground and air observers excellent observation. These observers went into action and located several targets of opportunity which were immediately taken under fire.

Based on knowledge of the Kraut's actions when red smoke signals were fired (which normally marked targets for the 12th TAC) a deceptive mission was fired. This consisted of the 925th FA Bn firing three red smoke shells in the vicinity of Bitche. As expected, the Kraut AA crews manned their positions, but instead of receiving the usual air bombint, they were plastered with Pozit by the 373rd

and 202d FA Bns. Four of the Kraut AA units were destroyed as a result of this well-planned action.

The 373rd FA Bn through adjustment by the Div Arty Air OP fired on the Bismark Barracks located in Bitche.

The 374th FA Bn having received information that enemy infantry were maintaining their front line positions in foxholes placed fire on all areas. Many foxholes were caved in by accurately placed fire which undoubtedly resulted in many enemy casualties which could not be seen. This unit also adjusted on enemy troops in Weiskirch; observers noted parts of bodies flying through the air.

The 375th FA Bn had a relatively quiet day, outstanding was the mission fired by a T/Sgt of the 398th Infantry on enemy troops in a vehicle on which he scored a direct hit. Two targets were also scored on a dugout in another mission.

The 925th FA Bn fired many missions on minor targets of opportunity. Many direct hits were observed but accurate casualties could not be determined.

14 Feb 45; Continued good weather provided excellent observation. But enemy activity throughout the period was nil. Observers throughout all sectors were unable to pick up a single target of opportunity. Consequently only the normal registrations --defensive fire checks and harrassing missions--were fired.

A single mission fired by the 374th FA Bn late in the period accounted for 6 Jerries in the vicinity of Epping.

15 Feb 45; Early in the period the 374th FA Bn and 250 FA Bn were called on to shift their lines of fire to the west far enough to include Rimling. This was done to support a scheduled 44th Division attack which, when launched, was highly successful. The objective was reached two hours after the jump-off, with very little resistance encountered.

The weather and observation were excellent during the period making it possible to locate many targets of opportunity which were all fired on with satisfactory results.

The 373rd FA Bn fired on targets in the vicinity of Meyersviller with WP fuze delay and HE shell which brought many Krauts running from their hideouts. Several houses were destroyed and two Germans were seen killed during this action.

The 374th FA Bn concentrated its efforts on Epping and Uttweiler. Results of the 21 missions fired by this unit included 11 observed casualties and neutralization of several mortar positions.

The 375th FA Bn fired 19 observed missions on enemy installations throughout its sector. Many target hits were scored but no report was available on casualties resulting therefrom.

The 925th FA Bn fired a total of 29 missions on numerous targets in the vicinity of Meyersviller and Freudenberg Farms. Many enemy gun positions were neutralized during this firing.

The Div Arty Air OP had a very active day, completing 14 missions which included 6 patrols, 6 registrations, and 2 targets of opportunity.

16 Feb 45; Although weather elements were excellent activity was relatively quiet during this period.

The 373rd FA Bn plastered and destroyed 3 pillboxes with target hits. Several mortars were silenced during harrassing missions fired on throughout the sector.

The 374th FA Bn scored a bullseye on a Kraut vehicle and killed three Germans riding in the cab. The Germans were given a "news broadcast" through 36 propaganda shells fired by this battalion.

The 375th FA Bn wiped out 5 enemy who were hiding in a trench in the 398th sector.

The 925th FA Bn ran a road runner on one of Jerry's MSR in the vicinity of Meyersviller. Wiremen who attempted to repair lines blown out by this firing were caught in a repeated battalion concentration.

A total of 77 missions were fired by all units during the period.

17 Feb 45: There was very little action throughout the division during the early part of the day. One of the heaviest fogs yet experienced settled over the area to the extent that travel was even retarded.

The 374th FA and 250 FA Bns were called on for numerous harrassing missions fired in the Rimling area to assist the 44th Division in repulsing a German counter-attack.

The 373rd FA Bn located an occupied pillbox in the vicinity of Goetzenbruck. This was knocked out rapidly with several direct hits, an unknown number of casualties resulted and one NCO surrendered.

The 374th FA Bn popped a surprise round of Pozit on an enemy foxhole and scored two casualties.

The 375th FA Bn fired several harrassing missions in the vicinity of Lemberg. 24 rounds of propaganda were also fired on this town.

The 925th FA Bn fired 36 missions during the period on enemy troops and mortar positions. 25 rounds of propaganda shell were fired on Meyersviller. Enemy artillery fire was received in this battalion's area but no casualties were suffered.

18 Feb 45: Very heavy rain and fog limited all operations. Units fired several harrassing missions throughout the sector. Div Arty and Corps Arty directed several TOTs on known enemy battery positions. This was prompted by an unusually large amount of enemy artillery which was harrassing friendly installations.

No outstanding targets of opportunity were located or fired on during the period.

19 Feb 45: All units including the 250 FA Bn moved one battery into an area in the general vicinity of Sarre-Union. There in coordination with a Division Ordnance team all materiel will receive the 6-month's maintenance check, approximately six days will be required to complete all the equipment in a battery.

Ground haze limited both air and ground observers to relatively little action. An additional allocation of ammunition was given by higher headquarters for the purpose of softening up the supposedly tough 6th SS Mountain Division. In coordination with XV Corps Arty units, 3 TOTs were dumped on enemy batteries in the vicinity of Camp De Bitche.

All units fired normal harrassing and interdiction missions during the period. The 374th FA Bn fired on a road block in the vicinity of Volmunster; the 925th FA Bn located and fired on a Wire Crew of Meyersviller. No other outstanding targets were located during the period.

20 Feb 45: Action was continued on the 6th SS Mountain Division intermittently throughout the period. This consisted of TOTs and single battalion missions as directed by this headquarters.

A 24-hour harrassing program on enemy CPs, battery positions, mortar positions, and front line troop units was participated in by all battalions. This action was centered on the Mouterhouse-Bitche sector. All types of ammunition was used during this program.

The 374th FA Bn killed 6 Krauts with time fire in the vicinity of Nousseviller. In another mission fired on a road north of Epping 3 more casualties were scored. A house containing Krauts was fired on with HE shell fuse delay, it was destroyed with several direct hits.

In a series of TOTs the 925th FA Bn, the 373 and 250 FA Bns fired 260 rounds of ammunition on Bitchs.

Although only a few targets of opportunity were located and fired on this was one of the busiest days for some time for the artillery units of the Division. A total of 224 missions were fired during the period requiring the expenditure of 2525 rounds of ammunition.

21 Feb 45: This period opened with rather good visibility but observers were able to pick up only a few targets to fire on. Enemy artillery was quite active firing 100 rounds in the division sector.

The 373 FA Bn harrassed installations in the vicinity of Reyersviller. Three direct hits were scored on a CP located in this town.

The 374 FA Bn fired time fire on the towns of Epping and Nousseviller.

Other units fired normal harrassing and interdiction missions throughout their zones of responsibility.

The Div Arty Air OP flew 14 missions and patrolled the front lines. During these patrols very little enemy activity was picked up.

22 Feb 45: A few observed targets were picked up by air and ground observers. These were taken under fire immediately with excellent results reported.

All units fired the normal harrassing and registration missions. No outstanding targets were fired on.

23 Feb 45: Old man weather provided us with excellent observation, consequently several lucrative targets were located and fired on.

The 373 FA Bn continued its harrassing program on the town of Reyersviller.

The 374 FA Bn located 3 Jerries in Dollenbach and killed two of them with time fire. Two others were observed laying mines in Volmunster, time fire killed one of them. In the town of Weiskirch several Krauts were seen entering a house. This was immediately destroyed with 7 HE shell direct hits. Near the same town 7 Jerries were seen crossing an open field; 5 of these were knocked out of action with the firing of HE shell fuze quick.

The 925 FA Bn fired a smear of propaganda in the vicinity of Reyersviller and Fort Freudenberg.

The Air OP flew 18 missions which included knocking out two tanks, one in the vicinity of Bitchs, the other south of Nousseviller. Also one vehicle was set on fire in the vicinity of Epping.

24 Feb 45: Lack of enemy activity resulted in little firing for the artillery during this period.

The 373 FA Bn destroyed a dugout and a pillbox in the vicinity of Reyersviller.

The 374th FA Bn killed two Krauts located in one of the enemy forward OPs.

The 375 FA Bn aided a friendly patrol with accurately placed harrassing fire.

The patrol reported the support rendered as excellent.

No other unusual incidents occurred today.

25 Feb 45: The Div Arty AOP played a major role in the operations during this period. They adjusted the 925 FA Bn on an enemy battery in the vicinity of Olsberg and another in the vicinity of Epping. The other outstanding adjustments were made with the 202d FA Bn on targets in Schorbach and Nousseviller.

Another observer adjusted the 375 FA Bn on a group of enemy on the Lemberg-Mouterhouse road.

The 373 FA Bn scored 6 direct hits on a pillbox located near Sarreinsberg. Needless to say, the pillbox was destroyed and the 5 Jerries inside were killed.

The 374th FA Bn fired 66 round of propaganda along the 397th Infantry front.

The 375 FA Bn smeared an OP in the vicinity of Sarreinsberg. Instruments and equipment were seen flying through the air. This unit spread 66 rounds of propaganda along the 398th front from Swangerbach to Sarreinsberg.

The 925th FA Bn fired normal harrassing missions throughout the day and fired propaganda shells along the 399th Infantry front in the vicinity of Schorbach.

26 Feb 45: Strong winds, heavy fog and low ceilings offered poor visibility during this period. Observers picked up a few targets of opportunity. All units replaced one battery in the rear rehabilitation area with one of the front line batteries.

The 373rd FA Bn demolished a dugout near Lemberg. It is assumed the 5 Krauts seen entering this dugout were killed.

The 374 FA Bn fired normal harrassing and interdiction mission.

The 375 FA Bn killed one Jerry in the vicinity of Swangerbach during an adjustment on a check point. Another was killed near a dugout in Lemberg. A Kraut wireman repairing a line in front of a dugout in the vicinity of Goetzenbruck was blown to bits by an accurate adjustment.

The 925th FA Bn fired on a dugout north of Lemberg and obtained 8 direct hits.

27 Feb 45: Extremely bad weather practically closed all operations during this day. The 373 FA Bn destroyed a dugout that the Krauts had rebuilt near Lemberg. Three direct hits did the job.

The 374 FA Bn caught 3 Krauts in foxholes near Schorbach and sprinkled them effectively with Pozit.

The 375 FA Bn fired normal registrations and harrassing missions.

The 925 FA Bn plastered Schorbach with 5 TOTs and fired propaganda on the same town.

28 Feb 45: Reliable information obtained from PWs pertaining to a transfer of enemy units prompted the firing of a continuous harrassing program during the night. Heavy fog throughout the sector limited observation and slowed down activity on both sides.

The 373 FA Bn fired 3 TOTs and a concentration on Bitch.

The 925 FA Bn harrassed Meyersviller and Schwangerbach throughout the day. Other units fired normal harrassing programs.

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* Initials: JDS *
* Date: 2 April 45 *



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1 Mar: The Division enters the month of March defending a 16000 meter sector extending from Epping-Urbach on the left to Sarreinsberg on the right. Lately enemy activity has been quite light. All units have been pounding known and suspected enemy installations with regularity and accuracy. PW reports reveal that the artillery fire power within our sector has been a major factor in discouraging any attempts by the enemy to attack.

This headquarters, located at Montbronn, had the following artillery units available throughout the division sector:

373 FA Bn,	located vicinity of	Montbronn.	(155 H)
375 FA Bn,	"	"	Montbronn. (105 H)
374 FA Bn,	"	"	Petite Rederching. (105 H)
925 FA Bn,	"	"	Echenberg. (105 H)
250 FA Bn,	"	"	Echenberg. (105 H)
975 FA Bn,	"	NE of Petite Rederching.	(155 H)
202 FA Bn,	"	W of Echenberg.	(155 H)
772 FA Bn,	"	near Montbronn.	(4.5 G)
342 FA Bn,	"	"	Echenberg. (105 SP)

During the day the 373 FA Bn fired the usual harrassing and counter-battery missions.

The 374 FA Bn located and scored 4 dead Jerries south of Vohlmunster. Observation and adjustment was made on the target by the AOP.

The 375 FA Bn detonated 6 mines while adjusting on an area N of Goetzenbruck. While firing on a mortar position in the same area, an ammunition dump was set on fire.

The 925 FA Bn harrassed Reysersviller during the entire day and fired propaganda over the area as the day closed.

2 Mar: This day opened with fair observation and limited ceiling for the AOP. There was very little enemy activity noted throughout the entire division sector.

The 373 FA Bn fired the usual harrassing missions and registrations.

The 374 FA Bn killed 5 Krauts which resulted from an observed mission fired on Weisskirchen. Propaganda was also distributed along the 397th front.

The 375 FA Bn fired normal harrassing missions and registration. During one harrassing mission on Goetzenbruck 3 mines were detonated.

The 925 FA Bn experienced a very quiet day by firing a few rounds of propaganda along the 399th front.

The 250 FA Bn destroyed a vehicle in the vicinity of Hottviller with a direct hit.

The 374 FA Bn located and placed a vattery volley on 4 German wiremen in the vicinity of Swangerbach. The resulting shell bursts lifted 2 bodies into the air.

3 Mar: Very cold weather and low hanging clouds provided only intermittent observation. However, observers were able to locate a few targets of opportunity.

The 373 FA Bn located an enemy CP in Swangerbach and completely destroyed it with 9 target hits; it is believed many casualties resulted from this firing.

The 374 FA Bn also located an enemy CP, in Noussviller. They adjusted the 925 FA Bn on this target and set it on fire.

Other units fired normal missions and registrations during the day.

truck and succeeded in killing 2 Jerries and knocking out 1 vehicle.

The 373 FA Bn had a full day of firing harrassing and interdiction missions.

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4 Mar: Only one outstanding mission was fired on this date. The 374 FA Bn killed 8 Krauts in the open in the vicinity of Dollenbach. A mixture of Pozit and fuze quick was used on this target. Another mission was fired on 3 enemy vehicles, these were located by a Radar unit. Resulting fire was reported as extremely accurate.

All units moved 1 battery to their rear rehabilitation areas and returned the one there to active duty in the battalion combat areas.

5 Mar: Continued inactivity throughout the enemy areas provided little business for the artillery units.

The 374 FA Bn fired on a vehicle and on troop concentrations located by Radar. No results were reported on this mission. They killed 3 Krauts who were digging in near the town of Utweiler. 2 more Krauts carrying a machine gun in the vicinity of Epping were killed when time fire caught them in the open.

The 375 FA Bn fired 76 rounds of propaganda along the 398th front.

The 925 FA Bn knocked off 3 Krauts N of Meyersviller, and fired 40 rounds of propaganda along the 399th front.

6 Mar: With fog, rain and snow all thrown together as interfering elements, all operations were practically stopped during the entire day.

The 373 FA Bn destroyed a house in the vicinity of Lemberg with 3 target hits.

The 374 FA Bn fired Pozit on 6 Germans located in the open near the town of Weiskirchen.

Other units were quite inactive during the day.

7 Mar: No change in weather conditions made this a day of little activity.

The 373 FA Bn destroyed a dugout SE of Lemberg with 3 target hits.

The 374 FA Bn killed 9 Krauts on the road near Epping.

No other outstanding activity was reported.

8 Mar: Lack of enemy action and adverse weather elements slowed activity within the artillery to a few observed targets and the usual harrassing and interdiction missions.

9 Mar: Absence of any enemy activity during this period provided all units with an opportunity to concentrate their efforts to an extensive harrassing program. In addition, many registrations were checked and found to be satisfactory.

10 Mar: Very bad weather conditions provided little visibility during this period. Hence this was one of the quietest days for several weeks.

Only the usual harrassing missions were fired by all units, with the exception of 30 rounds of propaganda fired by the 374 and 925 FA Bns.

11 Mar: The 373 FA Bn scored 2 casualties with 3 target hits on a dugout located S of Lemberg.

The 374 FA Bn dropped 2 Jerries with rapid Pozit in the vicinity of Weiskirchen.

The 375 FA Bn placed accurate fire on enemy installations in Goetzenbruck and succeeded in killing 2 Jerries and knocking out 1 vehicle.

The 925 FA Bn had a full day of firing harrassing and interdiction missions.

12 Mar: Favorable weather and observation provided a few good targets during the day. All units operated on the normal missions.

One mission of interest was fired by the 374 FA Bn. About 1000 and observer located and placed fire on 3 Krauts approaching a dugout near Urbach. The first FE killed one of them, three more appeared to pick up the wounded man, a repeat of the fire caught all three of them. Later in the morning 7 more appeared; accurate fire killed 4 of them.

13 Mar: This period opened with improved weather conditions throughout the entire sector. All observers took advantage of the opportunity and searched the enemy area for activity but were unsuccessful in locating any. The enemy observers were evidently alert as 400 rounds of enemy artillery were dropped throughout our front line elements. No serious casualties were reported.

This headquarters was informally notified to expect plans for a forthcoming attack on fortifications in the vicinity of Bitche and on the town of Bitche. Preparatory reorganization included the appearance of the new 71st Division in this sector.

The 373 FA Bn moved after considerable trouble to an area on the NW side of Enchenberg.

The 374 FA Bn killed 8 Germans in two observed Pozit missions fired in the vicinity of Epping. Three other Jerries interested in their wounded comrades were also knocked off when they ventured into the open.

Other units fired normal registrations and harassing missions.

The 342 AFA Bn was released this date from attachment and was replaced by the 991 FA Bn, which was attached and placed in general support. They occupied positions in the vicinity of Petite Rederching. This unit is equipped with eight M-12 guns which will be a definite aid in the assault on enemy fortifications.

14 Mar: The long awaited transfer from the defensive role for this division to an active offensive was announced by the publication of FO #8 Hq 100th Div which in general ordered elements of the division to attack at 0500 on 15 March 1945. This ordered the capture of Bitche, Camp De Bitche, and the high ground surrounding this area. Thereafter, on XV Corps Order, the division is to move to the north and protect all or part of the Corps right flank.

Upon receipt of these orders this Hq issued an annex giving the complete artillery plan to support this attack (see inclosed FA Annex to FO #8 for details). Organization for the attack consisted of the following:

The 373 FA Bn (155 H) in general support of the division sector from its positions in the vicinity of Enchenberg.

The 374 FA Bn (105 H) with the mission of direct support of the 397 Inf drive to the E in the area NE of Schorbach. This unit was in position near Petite Rederching.

The 375 FA Bn (105 H) formed the 375 Group with the 250 FA Bn, the CO of 375 commanding. The mission of this group was direct support of the 398 Inf in making the main thrust on Fort Schlessick, then to the fortress Otterbeil and finally to the town of Bitche. Positions occupied were near Holbach.

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The 925 FA Bn (105 H) with the mission of direct support of the 399th Inf in its advance through Meyersviller to be followed by an assault on Bitche from its positions in the vicinity of Echenberg.

The 991 FA Bn (M-12) with 8 guns was given the mission of general support of the Division from its positions in the vicinity of Rohrbach. The guns of this unit to be committed to direct fire missions upon call.

Weather conditions being unusually favorable during the day, the AOP was able to complete 32 flights. Several targets of opportunity were located and fired on.

15 Mar: This period started off with action by XV Corps Arty units firing a 2-hour counterbattery program at 0100 to eliminate enemy artillery units who might offer resistance when the attack started.

At 0500 all infantry units, well organized, moved forward to seize their various objectives generally centered E of Bitche. Little resistance was encountered during the first drive and all initial objectives were seized rapidly. Continuing on toward fortifications surrounding Bitche, all elements again completed their missions in due time under accurate artillery cover. As the period closed the infantry elements dug-in in preparation for the final drive on Bitche and Camp de Bitche.

All units of the artillery entered the above action at 0600 with the firing of a detailed harrassing and interdiction program for a 10-minute duration. This same treatment was given all enemy installations and possible routes of retreat every hour for 4 hours.

The 373 FA Bn started the day off with 4 direct hits on a dugout in the vicinity of Meyersviller and caused an unknown number of casualties therein. Later in the morning the AOP adjusted this unit on a tank in Lingleshen, target hits were scored. The AOP also located numerous enemy battery positions and placed extremely accurate fire on them. Enemy rocket positions were located and plastered by this unit. Toward the end of the day they marked Bitche for a 12th TAC bombing.

In support of the 397 Inf advance on the Division's left flank, the 374 FA Bn fired on many enemy strong points and troop concentrations E of Schorbach. Forward observers located 8 enemy rocket positions S of Lingleshen and plastered them with a mixture of HE and WP. Another mission fired in the same area knocked out a CP. The latter was burned with a treatment of WP.

As the 398 Inf drove forward in the center of the Division's thrust, the 375 FA Bn located and directed accurate fire on many enemy troop installations and concentrations spreading over the area Fruedenberg Farm to Fort Schisseck. Other missions fired by this unit included the marking of Fort Otterbiel and Fort Ramstein for bombing by the 12th TAC.

Strong pressure by the 399th Inf on the outskirts of Bitche caused many enemy units to leave. Thirty were caught in a 925 FA Bn concentration only 8 of these were seen waling away. This unit fired a heavy preparation on Meyersviller and Spitzberg hill. Later a mission fired on an enemy machine gun position W of Bitche resulted in 8 dead Krauts.

The AOP had one of their busiest days with the completion of 38 missions. A total of 115 missions were fired during this period. ^{flights}

16 Mar: Having received very reliable information that the enemy was moving out in front of the attack, all artillery units of the XV Corps, 71st Division, and this Division fired an extensive harrassing and interdiction program throughout the night. This covered all lines of march throughout all enemy sectors.

At 0600 a softening up preparation was fired on Bitche before the final assault by the infantry. Units participating included the 608th, 564, 250, 373, and 375 FA Bns. Fifteen minutes later the 697, 991, and 373 FA Bns fired a preparation on Fort Otterbiel.

Following the initial preparations, many targets of opportunity were located by ground and aerial observers. Many of these were elements of retreating enemy units.

The 373 FA Bn obtained 3 target hits on an enemy gun position located on the edge of Camp de Bitche. Sweeping to the NW they caught a column of troops moving S of Lingleshen and plastered them with Pozit, causing an unknown number of casualties. This unit also marked 3 targets for the 12th TAC in the area of Camp de Bitche. During the latter part of the day a displacement was completed to a valley S of Schorbach.

The 374 FA Bn during their support of the advance of the 397 Inf located and fired on rocket positions N of Sahorbach. Later during the morning an infantry patrol found two of these rockets and 100 rounds of ammunition. Four enemy machine gun positions were destroyed W of Haspelscheist. An enemy battery position was completely knocked out of action with 62 rounds of Pozit. This battery was located S of Hannviller where later 6 dead Krauts were found.

The 375 FA Bn destroyed a vehicle and gun on the road near Camp de Bitche with accurately placed fire. Observers of this unit adjusted the 697 FA Bn (240 H) on Fort Hohekirkel and secured several target hits. Five hits were also scored on Fort Otterbiel while using the M-12.

The 925 FA Bn supporting the sweep of the 399 Inf on the Division's right flank knocked out several tanks who attempted to harrass the infantry. Direct hits were made on enemy vehicles retreating from the front lines. During the afternoon a displacement was made to the vicinity of Lambach which later that night was followed by a move to an area SW of Bitche.

The Div Arty AOP had a very active day, 21 patrols, 21 registrations, and 13 targets of opportunity were completed by this unit. In several instances observers called for 12th TAC air support when targets were located out of range of our artillery.

As this day closed the division has the supreme satisfaction of having captured one of the strongest fortified areas in Europe, namely the city of Bitche and its surrounding forts: Ramstein, Schiesseck, Petite Otterbâël, Grand Otterbiel, Petite Hohekirshel, the Citadel of Bitche, and Camp de Bitche. This was accomplished in two days.

17 Mar: Consolidated intelligence information indicated the enemy had made a very rapid retreat and offered but little resistance. This fact coupled with adverse weather elements provided only a little activity during this period.

This headquarters moved from Montbronn to Bitche, a distance of about 15 miles. Installations were completed at 1530.

The 373 FA Bn fired registrations and harrassing programs. Toward the end of the day they completed displacement to new position S of Schorbach.

The 374 FA Bn had a day without activity. Displacement was completed to Olsberg without incident.

The 375 FA Bn also had a similar day of inactivity. They displaced to new positions in the vicinity of Schorbach.

The 925 FA Bn caught a tank leaving the Camp de Bitch area and knocked it out of action with the first concentration. As the day closed this unit displaced to new positions in the vicinity of Hannviller. There the 925 Group was formed adding the 250 FA Bn to the 925 FA Bn.

18 Mar: Although weather conditions were favorable and observation was excellent, the enemy's rapid and extended retreat left only a few targets for the artillery to work on during this period.

The 373 FA Bn displaced from Schorbach to Bousseviller.

The 374 FA Bn displaced from Olsberg to Waldhausen.

The 375 and 925 FA Bns had little activity.

As this day ended work was received that the Division elements would be formed into combat teams and placed in Corps reserve for a movement to another sector.

19 Mar: Having taken up a reserve role, elements of the Division offered little activity.

The 373 FA Bn moved into an assembly area near Busweiler.

The 374 FA Bn remained in their positions and fired one mission on 3 enemy vehicles W of Winzeln.

The 925 FA Bn closed in its assembly area in the vicinity of Hannviller.

The 250 FA Bn was released this date for attachment to the 3d Division which is operating on our left flank.

20 Mar: The only enemy activity picked up during this period was 25 gunflashes in the vicinity of Permasons. The AOP adjusted the 373 and 564 FA Bns on these targets, TOTs were fired on each position.

In preparation for the 100th Division's transfer from the XV to the XXI Corps and the attack on Ludwigshafen, units proceeded to assigned assembly areas to await further instructions: The 375 FA Bn near Schorbach, 925 FA Bn in the vicinity of Hannviller, 373FA Bn near Bussweiler at 1630, and the 374 FA Bn in the vicinity of Waldhausen.

21 Mar: All units remained in their respective assembly areas without activity during the entire day.

22 Mar: As day broke this morning CT 399 moved out motorized in a NE direction to the town of Contivig. Then taking the winding road going E through the forests and mountains, they advanced along the line Rieschwilr-Thaleschweiler-Waldesbach and finally to Neustadt. No enemy resistance was encountered during the march. This CT was followed very closely by CT 397 who moved along the same route.

This headquarters moved from Bitch, France, to Thaleschweiler, Germany, arriving there at 1800.

The 373 and 375 FA Bns remained in their assembly areas.

The AOP had a very busy day maintaining surveillance over the advance of the combat teams. Timely reporting of the locations of front line elements facilitated rapid coordination within the division.

23 Mar: Continuing their attack on Ludwigshafen the 399 CT succeeded in advancing as far as Mudach without meeting enemy resistance. There the division attack stopped to await the arrival of other division units and build up a heavier striking force.

The 373 FA Bn moved into new positions near Darmstadt. There they registered on the E side of the Rhine.

The 374 FA Bn moved into positions in the vicinity of Meckenheim.

The 375 FA Bn moved into position in the vicinity of Maxdorf.

The 925 FA Bn moved into position near Mutterstadt and registered on the E side of the Rhine.

The 18 FA Bn moved into an assembly area near Ungstein.

The 802 FA Bn moved into an assembly area near Mutterstadt.

The Div Arty AOP moved to a new field near Ruppertsberg.

This headquarters moved to Meckenheim and closed there at 1500.

24 Mar: Poor weather conditions and the heavy fog throughout the Rhine valley limited visibility. No targets of opportunity were located, indicating very little enemy activity on the Eastern banks of the Rhine River.

The 373 FA Bn moved to new positions near Limbergerhof and fired 2 registrations; the 374 FA Bn displaced to Limbergerhof then to Oggersheim, where 5 registrations were fired; the 375 FA Bn displaced from Maxdorf to new positions near Limbergerhof and fired 2 registrations; the 925 FA Bn displaced to Limbergerhof and fired 1 registration; the 18 FA Bn moved into new positions near Mutterstadt and fired 3 registrations; and the 802 FA Bn displaced to Limbergerhof and fired 2 registrations.

25 Mar: This Division has been ordered into assembly areas just W of Ludwigshafen to await orders for a fast move over the Rhine. The location of the 7th Army bridge-heads over the river are yet unknown.

An observer from the 925 FA Bn noted enemy activity in a warehouse in southern Mannheim, and adjusted the 373 FA Bn on it. Two target hits caused a very heavy explosion.

Other units had little activity other than check registration.

26 Mar: Improved visibility during the afternoon provided a few observed targets which were immediately taken under fire.

The 373 FA Bn fired on two enemy AA batteries N of Mannheim and neutralized them in short order. A 925 observer adjusted this battalion on enemy vehicles and a house in southern Mannheim, both were destroyed. A guard of this unit killed a Kraut Lieutenant who refused to halt when apprehended.

The 374 FA Bn scored 5 target hits on a large barge moving in the Rhine. In another mission they collapsed the walls of a house on 3 Jerries who were hiding inside.

Other units had inactivity throughout the day.

27 Mar: The 100th Division was relieved by the 71st Division. All battalions were taken out of action as of 1700, consequently no changes or activity was reported.

28 Mar: No missions, no change in locations and no enemy activity was the only report for this period.

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29 Mar: All Operations during this period stressed maintenance and care of materiel.

30 Mar: This day was devoted to continued maintenance and orientation. Troops were thoroughly informed of the rapid changes taking place east of the Rhine.

31 Mar: Orders were received from higher headquarters to alert all units for movement across the Rhine. This was good news for the 100th Division personnel as it meant getting into the real part of Germany and crossing what was expected to be one of the Kraut's final lines of defense.

The wait for final movement was not long, as elements of the artillery started across the Rhine at 0800. This headquarters crossed the river on the engineer pontoon bridge connecting Ludwigshaven and Mannheim at 1100 today. The CP closed in the town of Friedrichsfeld at 1230.

The 373 FA Bn occupied positions in the vicinity of Grenzhof and registered.

The 374 FA Bn occupied positions in the vicinity of Plankstadt.

The 925 FA Bn occupied positions in the vicinity of Bruhl and registered.

The 375 FA Bn moved into positions in the vicinity of Bruhl.

The 242 FA Bn (105 H) was attached for operations as of 302000 March 45 and moved to positions in the vicinity of Plankstadt and registered.

Thus as the month of March closes the 100th Division Artillery is in position East of the Rhine River ready for the necessary re-organization of the VI Corps preparatory to an attack in an Easterly direction.

DA

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* S E C R E T *
*Auth: CG 100 Div Arty *
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*Initials: JBM *
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*Date: 5 May 1945 *



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1 Apr: The enemy in full retreat offered but spot resistance to our forward elements. These spots were rapidly wiped out with the fire power of these elements. The artillery units followed rapidly and occupied positions in the event organized resistance developed. But throughout the period no targets of note were located or fired on.

The 373 FA Bn displaced to new positions in the vicinity of Oftersheim.

The 374 FA Bn displaced to St Ilgen.

In the rapid advance of the 398 Infantry, the 375 FA Bn was placed under CT control.

The 925 FA Bn displaced to new positions in the vicinity of Hockenheim in support of the 399 Infantry advance.

The 242 FA Bn grouped with the 374 FA Bn also displaced to the vicinity of Sandhausen and fired counterbattery missions in front of the 397 Infantry sector.

2 Apr: Continuing the pursuit as rapidly as communications and supply would permit, no real contact with the enemy was made during this day.

Only two changes occurred in the locations of units. The 374 FA Bn displaced to an assembly area in the vicinity of Horrenberg. This headquarters moved to Sandhausen and opened there at 1800. Very late in the period the 242 FA Bn displaced to Hoffenheim.

3 Apr: All units were busy during the day in making a reconnaissance for, and displacing to, new positions.

The 373 FA Bn displaced to Durren.

The 374 FA Bn " " Sinsheim.

The 375 FA Bn " " Rappenu.

The 925 FA Bn " " Wieslock.

The 242 FA Bn " " Steinsfurt.

This headquarters moved to Walbstadt and opened there at 1900.

4 Apr: Forward elements of the division advancing in a SE direction cautiously approached the area east of the Neckar River. Scattered pockets of enemy resistance were encountered, indicating the nearness of a possible enemy strong point. As the day advanced this fact was verified by observers' reports that the city of Heilbronn was being held by large numbers of enemy troops. In due time this city developed to be the division objective and, being located on the east side of the Neckar River, the problem of a river crossing again presented itself.

As infantry regiments deployed for their attack, the artillery battalions displaced to new positions and proceeded to neutralize observed enemy activity east of the river.

The 373 FA Bn displaced to new position near Kirchhausen and fired on buildings in NE Heilbronn.

The 374 and 375 FA Bns displaced to positions near Frankenbach.

The 925 FA Bn displaced to Gemmingen and registered.

The 242 FA Bn displaced to positions near Kirchhausen.

During the latter part of the afternoon a 375 FA Bn observer located and directed fire on a number of enemy troops digging in N of Binswangen and estimated 20 casualties were bagged in this shooting.

In the form of a calling card the 194 FA Bn (8th How) fired 700 round on the city of Heilbronn during the period 22:30 to 23:30. There is no doubt that the 121 tons of HE fired in 14 TOT's awakened the Krauts to the fact that Allied artillery was somewhere nearby.

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5 Apr: Small numbers of infantry were successful in making a river crossing N of Heilbronn and utilizing a large factory for protection. At 0200 the enemy launched an attack to dislodge these troops. The 374 and 242 FA Bns fired close in protecting fires and were successful in blocking the enemy thrust. Later at 0330 an observer from the 374 FA Bn detected enemy troop movement in the same area and adjusted the 194 FA Bn on them with excellent results. At about the same time the 373 FA Bn unloaded 5 TOT's on the northern section of Heilbronn, which resulted in several fires throughout the area.

In advance of the attack by the 397 Infantry, the 373, 374, 242 and 194 FA Bns fired preparation fires on the northern edge of Heilbronn.

As the day advanced, plans were issued from this headquarters for the systematic destruction of the city. Each of the following battalions (373, 374, 375, 925, 242, 194, 938, 141 and 634) were assigned a sector of the city to fire on at regular intervals throughout the day. Ammunition expenditures' reports reveal that several hundred tons of HE were poured on the city.

A strong point located in Heilbronn was taken under fire by the 374 and 242 FA Bns. They placed a TOT on this target every hour from 1400 until darkness. The 373 FA Bn also aided by firing 8 rounds per hour on the same target.

The 375 FA Bn displaced to the vicinity of Badwimperf and supported the 398 Infantry in repulsing an enemy thrust.

The 925 FA Bn displaced to the vicinity of Moflenbach. They fired counter-battery missions on direct fire weapons and enabled friendly armor to move S along the road from Grossgartach.

The Div Arty AOP had a very active day and can at least add 2 tanks and 8 vehicles to its list of profitable targets knocked out.

6 Apr: Excellent weather conditions provided aerial and ground observers with ideal observation into the Heilbronn area. The enemy determined in his stand to deny the city's surrender, has resorted to all means of warfare.

The 373 FA Bn destroyed several houses where enemy troops were hiding.

The 374 FA Bn fired numerous missions on enemy installations in Heilbronn and accounted for 14 enemy casualties, 1 tank and 1 40mm S/P gun. A treatment of white phosphorous burned down several buildings.

The 375 FA Bn had a field day, scoring 52 casualties, burned several buildings and harassed the vicinity of the bridge construction project over the Neckar River. The latter was to afford a protective cover to our engineers.

The 925 FA Bn displaced to Grossgartach and immediately opened fire on 40 enemy troops and KO'd 25 of these with Pozit.

7 Apr: The city of Heilbronn, although flanked on the N by elements of the 398 and 397, and on the S by small groups of the 399, all on the E by the river, still holds out with strong pockets of enemy supported by well directed artillery fire.

In spite of difficult flying conditions the AOP was particularly active throughout the day, directing fire on 21 targets of opportunity.

The 373 FA Bn fired on a two-gun battery hidden in the hills behind Heilbronn. A concrete tower being used as an OP was destroyed by 7 direct hits at 1315. Several houses containing enemy troops were fired on and burned down by very accurate firing. In another mission adjusted by the AOP this unit destroyed 2 tanks with two direct hits and knocked another out of action with one direct hit.

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The 374 FA Bn silenced a flak gun and had a Hey-Day, firing 24 observed missions on troops. A total of 81 dead Krauts were bagged during the day.

The 242 FA Bn had a full day of activity, setting numbers of buildings on fire throughout the city of Heilbronn. This unit also knocked out 5 vehicles and caused considerable damage on a motor park.

The 375 FA Bn continued to provide a protective cover of fire and smoke screen for the engineers constructing the bridge across the Neckar. Observed enemy troop missions netted 30 casualties. A forward observer knocked out an 88mm gun with a single direct hit.

The 925 FA Bn fired on troops in the town of Southeim and mowed them down with time fire. In another mission on enemy troops near Flein, many casualties were netted.

8 Apr: During the early hours of this period the engineers were successful in spanning the Neckar. Immediately troops and supplies started rolling over to build up and support those troops already in Heilbronn.

By daylight the already strengthened bridgehead had caused enemy activity to decrease. Observers reported that enemy troops were withdrawing to the remote edges of the area. But the enemy artillery was not long in locating the bridge and knocked it out with very accurate firing. This same battery continued to harass the bridge site throughout the day.

Every known trick was used to locate the enemy gun firing on the bridge but as the day closed it was still free to fire at will.

The 373 FA Bn obtained two hits on a tank which completely destroyed it. Another mission neutralized an enemy battery located NE of Heilbronn. They also knocked out an enemy AA gun at 1800 located N of Heilbronn.

The 374 FA Bn fired 138 rounds of smoke to screen the movement of friendly troops from sniper fire.

The 242 FA Bn scored 5 direct hits on enemy mortar positions which were firing on the advance elements of the 398 Inf. They adjusted the 194 FA Bn on a 10-story building and got 10 direct hits--which caused considerable damage.

The 375 FA Bn marked targets for the 12th TAC who laid a few "eggs" on known enemy installations. They also fired 14 troop missions and scored a total of 21 casualties.

The 925 FA Bn had a fairly quiet day firing but 6 missions on enemy troops and installations.

As the day closed the enemy started firing rockets on the bridge site in a final attempt to completely destroy it. But their firing being quite inaccurate, it is likely that the rocket position will be neutralized before any serious damage is done to the bridge.

9th Apr: With all infantry units on the E side of the Neckar River, the division fire power is being directed on close in areas in an effort to strengthen the Heilbronn bridgehead and soften up the strong enemy resistance being encountered across the entire front.

Reports indicate that the enemy has artillery of all calibers and rocket positions which are firing into the Division area. Artillery fire continued to fall on the Heilbronn bridge site.

A Polish worker picked up stated the enemy was defending this area strongly to enable them to remove plane parts from an underground factory located E of Kochendorf.

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The 373 FA Bn neutralized 3 enemy positions, one self-propelled gun and one rocket gun. Hits were scored on 3 Kraut vehicles. Several buildings were burned down during the day.

The 374 FA Bn supporting the movement of the 397 Inf concentrated its fire power on enemy troops, bagging an unknown number of casualties. Five machine guns and 1 mortar knocked out in other action.

The 242 FA Bn scored 11 hits on buildings harboring snipers. They also marked targets for the 12th TAC.

The 375 FA Bn harassed an enemy strong point N of Hagenbach during the night, when dawn came 30 Jerries were seen on the ground. An observer of this unit adjusted the 194 FA Bn on a 75-Jerry gun position also N of Hagenbach and destroyed it as well as killing part of the crew.

The 925 FA Bn caused heavy destruction to a barracks area with the M-12 unit. Shortly thereafter they spread propaganda shell over the area. Rapid and accurate shooting KO'd 3 vehicles SE of Flein.

The AOP was quite active with 29 flights and 26 patrols. Many profitable targets were located and fired on.

10 Apr: Upon very reliable and very close observations made by Capt Tvedt in the town of Neckarsheim, the artillery units fired the largest 45-minute program since entry into combat. The 1412 rounds were dumped throughout the town and on an adjacent town, also on a nearby woods where many enemy troops and vehicles were in concealment.

The 373 FA Bn fired on troops and burned buildings in Heilbronn throughout the day.

The 374 FA Bn also burned buildings in Heilbronn and scored many casualties therein. In another mission they silenced a direct fire weapon located in the norther part of the town.

The 242 FA Bn completely destroyed a large building in Heilbronn with 5 direct hits.

The 375 FA Bn directing the firing of an M-12, "worked-over" warehouses, buildings and fuel dumps with direct fire. Destruction and casualties were obtained with every round fired.

Many other troop and vehicle missions were fired by the units on the Neckarsheim and Heilbronn area. The 186 missions fired during this period occurred so rapidly and required the attention of all personnel to the extent that it was impossible to keep a detailed record of the missions.

11 Apr: Intelligence agents gathered information during yesterday that enemy reinforcements were moving into the Heilbronn area. This was verified by many troop movements picked up by ground and air observers. Upon receipt of this information and the location of these assembly areas, this headquarters proceeded to draft an extensive harassing program which was fired by all units during the first few hours of this period.

The AOP located a pillbox in the vicinity of Hockheim and adjusted the 373 FA Bn on it. Many troop casualties resulted, in addition several buildings on the outskirts of the town were destroyed.

The 374 FA Bn scored 2 hits at 1130 on a vehicle S of Weinsberg, this mission was also adjusted by the AOP.

The 375 FA Bn fired a load of propaganda on Neckarsheim. During the day they knocked out three vehicles and 3 TD's. Utilizing the M-12 they destroyed

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buildings in Kochendorf by direct fire methods. During the afternoon this battalion adjusted the 194th FA Bn (8" How) on several TD's assembled near a building in Odheim; direct hits knocked out the targets.

The 925 FA Bn destroyed 2 vehicles in the vicinity of Sontheim. They fired 15 rounds with the M-12 into an enemy military garrison located 1000 yards S of Heilbronn. The intensity of this fire caused personnel in the building to hastily put out a white flag.

The day ended with the city of Heilbronn completely occupied by the Division Infantry. Many supplies were ferried across the river on 2½-ton ducks. The nearness of the front lines does not yet warrant the movement of any artillery units.

12 Apr: Enemy activity was noticeably on the decline as the day opened. Most of the delaying resistance was encountered in the southern sector of the Heilbronn area.

The 373 FA Bn joined Corps in firing TOT's on buildings containing troops and on enemy vehicle concentrations.

The 374 FA Bn, supporting the 397th Inf sector, had a relatively quiet day. The outstanding mission was the effective screening this unit provided the 397th Inf in its advance at 1430. A preparation was fired prior to the initial phases of this advance.

The 375 FA Bn fired during the night on Kochendorf with fuze quick, fuze delay, and white phosphorous. Effect was evidently very good as sounds of distress came from enemy personnel within the towns.

The 925 FA Bn fired a record of 435 rounds of time fire on enemy troops south of Heilbronn. Over 100 casualties were observed as a result of this firing.

13 Apr: All infantry units were successful in driving the Jerries east well beyond the hills bounding Heilbronn. This permitted the rapid completion of the much needed bridge. Immediately plans were drafted and orders issued for the displacement of artillery units across the Neckar River. To accomplish this it was necessary to give continuous support to the Infantry Regiments in their advance. Hence units not moving were assigned dual missions.

The 373 FA Bn participated in a heavy harrassing program during the night and fired several observed missions on enemy elements prior to displacing to positions west of Weinsberg.

The 374 FA Bn also fired a full night of harrassing missions, and also on some targets of opportunity during the early morning. They displaced to an area SE of Weinsberg. This unit fired its 50,000th round of ammunition since its entry into combat.

The 375 FA Bn had a fairly quiet day in their own sector. They were called on to render support to the 397th Inf during the crossing of the Neckar by the 374th FA Bn. Enemy troops operating in a communication trench were fired on, 6 casualties were scored.

The 925 FA Bn, assisted by the 374 FA, 373 FA and 194 FA Bns fired on Sontheim with maximum rate of fire at 0355. This unit again spent a full day firing troop missions and totaling a score of over seventy casualties. An infantry observer destroyed a column of enemy artillery when he accurately adjusted this unit on it. During the closing hours of the period this battalion displaced to positions near Sontheim.

The AOP flew 21 missions; one of particular note was made by Lt Roberts and Cpl Gerlach. During a patrol they noted friendly armor halted by a road block. Hastily they dropped a "follow me" note to the halted column and guided it on an

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alternate route to Lehren.

To maintain contact with the displaced units this headquarters moved to Frankenbach at 1600.

14 Apr: As this period opened all artillery battalions were busy harrassing enemy troops south of Weinsberg and Affaltuch.

Heavy resistance in the 399th Inf sector required the firing of TOT's by the 373 FA Bn on this area.

The 374 FA Bn marked the town of Lowenstein for bombing by the 12th TAC. A small group of enemy assembling for a possible counterattack were readily neutralized with time fire at 1620.

The 242 FA Bn scored 30 casualties in a troop mission fired in the vicinity of Heinriet. They also neutralized a rocket position located at Gruppenbach.

The 397th Inf sector was rather quiet throughout the period, hence the 375 FA Bn was called on for but a few time preparation missions.

The 925 FA Bn collected a large number of enemy casualties with observed missions and by utilizing time fire on the targets located in front of the 399th Inf. This headquarters moved from Frankenbach to Weinsbach.

15 Apr: Enemy elements continued their delaying actions and amounted numbers of pockets of resistance were encountered across the Division front.

The 374 FA Bn fired TOT's on enemy troops in Unt Gruppenbach, Unt Henriet, and Lowenstein. As the day ended they moved to Lehrenheimsfeld.

The 375 FA Bn neutralized 3 vehicles on the high road going east from Lowenstein. Additional firing by heavier caliber artillery on these same vehicles completely destroyed them. This battalion displaced to Rappach.

The 242 FA Bn displaced to Affaltroach, no reports of its firing were received during the period.

The 925 FA Bn fired TOT's into towns in the 399th Inf sector. A preparation was also fired for a 399th Inf patrol in the area around Schozach.

16 Apr: General activity slowed down as units advanced steadily after the enemy retreating in a SE direction.

The 373 FA Bn displaced to new positions in the vicinity of Lehrensteinfeld. The only activity there was the neutralization of an enemy machine gun.

The 374 FA Bn scored 10 casualties on various troop missions. They also marked a target for the 12th TAC and fired screening smoke in support of the 397th Inf operating in the vicinity of Lowenstein.

The 398th Inf in order to move rapidly in a SE direction toward Mainhardt motorized the 2d battalion and requested the addition of one battery of the 375 FA Bn for close support in the event of meeting strong resistance before reaching their objective. Another high spot in this unit's firing for the day was 3 close-in counterbattery missions.

The 925 FA Bn caught an enemy horse-drawn vehicle crossing a check point. This was rapidly destroyed by two battalion volleys. A smoke mission was fired on the town of Schozach to cover the entry of the 399th Inf into the town. They also marked Ilsfeld for bombing by the air support.

The 242 FA Bn collected 17 enemy casualties during their day's firing. They also burned 3 vehicles in the vicinity of Neulautern.

S E C R E T

17 Apr: The division continues its advance in a south-easterly direction toward the Backmang-Murchardt area. The enemy resisted stubbornly on the right flank but the 399th CT pushed them back in spite of the resistance offered.

The rapidity of the situation has fostered a new intelligence agency, namely the AOP. Planes are assigned missions of reporting the locations of all advance friendly elements. They also report all road blocks and other movement obstacles, thus aiding units in reaching their objectives over the best possible routes of travel.

A plane report placed the advance elements of the 397th Inf on the left flank 1000 yards W of Bernbach. The same plane reported a road block farther E. Another report at 0950 indicated infantry elements had passed the road block and had successfully advanced to the vicinity of Weistanrot.

The artillery action during the advances consisted mainly of preparations and screening fire where required. Occasional targets of opportunity were located and immediately neutralized or destroyed. An enemy CP reported by a PW and whose location was verified by our observers was taken under fire by the 925 FA Bn. After obtaining accurate coordinates of the target, the 194 FA Bn was assigned the mission of destruction. An AOP observer adjusted all firing and upon its completion at 1100 reported the buildings containing the CP destroyed.

The 373 FA Bn marked targets for the Air Support and fired a counter-battery mission of Pfahlof. This was followed by 2 TOT's to completely destroy the gun positions. In the afternoon they displaced to Lehrensteinsfeld.

The 374 FA Bn occupied new positions in the vicinity of Rittelhof early in the day. Enemy troops offering slight resistance were fired on and dispersed. Time fire was sprayed on an enemy OP in the same vicinity. As the period closed they marked Spiegelberg for bombing by the air support.

The 375 FA Bn displaced to an area E of Gleichen. The only noteworthy mission fired by this unit developed while an air observer was adjusting on a check point in the town of Rotenhof. Two enemy vehicles rode right into the bag and were immediately smeared. Several casualties were observed. Shortly thereafter more enemy vehicles were noted approaching the same check point. The 375th poured many rounds into the area and knocked out more vehicles. When 60 enemy vehicles were again observed moving south of the same point the 976 FA Bn was called on for heavier fire power. This firing dispersed the column throughout the town of Rotenhof. Forty rounds were dumped on this small town. Darkness prevented the observing and reporting of obtained casualties.

The 925 FA Bn displaced to Oberheinhut and immediately fired on 2 enemy vehicles and 20 personnel located by the AOP. The effect was reported as excellent.

Both vehicles were knocked out and personnel were caught under crumbling walls of masonry. Later 5 vehicles were fired on in the town of Ilsfeld, several hits were obtained.

18 Apr: Progress of the division advance elements is still very good. Only pockets of the enemy's delaying resistance were encountered throughout the day. Artillery units where possible provided screening fire for our troops and where observations could be made, harrassing fires were placed on enemy troops and installations.

The 373 FA Bn adjusted on two enemy batteries and called for Corps Arty TOT's to complete the job. Later in the day 4 missions fired on vehicles netted 4 vehicle losses for the Jerries. Upon request of the 925 FA Bn a heavy concentration of fire was placed on a wooded area NE of Bielstein.

S E C R E T

The AOP adjusted the 374 FA Bn on a house SE of Hals at 2000B and caused it to collapse. This same unit fired on a flak wagon near Hals at 0900B and were told later when our troops passed the spot that only a carcass remained. As the period closed the 374 FA Bn moved to Weistenrot.

The 375 FA Bn fired on 2 vehicles towing guns near Hausen at 1420B and 1430B. In both cases at the initial firing the vehicles dropped the guns and fled into nearby woods. The guns were then destroyed by direct hits. Vehicles observed by the AOP entering Murhardt were fired on at 1450, five of these were destroyed with direct hits. This unit moved to Hutten at the close of the day.

The 242 FA Bn collected a bag of enemy casualties in a mission fired on a troop concentration at 1745B near the town of Gross Erlach. They displaced to Ammertweiler in the afternoon.

The 925 FA Bn had a busy day dropping time fire on 12 troop missions throughout the sector. They fired an adjustment by instruments of the 2nd FAO Bn on 2 troop missions SE of Ikfeld.

The Div Arty AOP had a full day covering the entire front by flying 33 missions. Many targets were located and fired on with excellent results.

19 Apr: As the enemy retreated southward they retained small pockets of resistance in their line of movement. These presented but few targets for the artillery battalions.

The 373 FA Bn caught several enemy vehicles SW of Kласpach and immediately placed fire on these targets and completed the job with a Corps Arty TOT. In another mission they knowcked out a vehicle in the vicinity of Allmersbach.

The 374 FA Bn burned a house down containing enemy in the town of Kurzach at 1230. Later at 1300 the effective zone firing of this unit on an enemy assembly area in the vicinity of Kurzach broke up a probably counterattack.

The 375 FA Bn displaced to Gross Erlach.

The 925 FA Bn fired TOT's into the town of Beilstein during the night which resulted in the enemy pulling out at daybreak.

This headquarters moved from Weinsberg to the country town of Reisach, NE of Lowenstein, and opened there at 1500.

20 Apr: As the enemy retreated rapidly, elements of this divisions front line units found difficulty in maintaining contact.

The 373 FA Bn displaced to Iettenbach.

The 374 FA Bn displaced to Rottmannsberg.

The 375 FA Bn displaced to Fantspach.

The 925 FA Bn located an enemy battery consisting of 8 guns firing rapidly into the town of Bachnang. The 986 FA Bn was adjusted on this battery. The resulting fire neutralized this enemy action. A similar battery was also located S of Hertmannsweiler and put out of action. At 1630 a large column of enemy personnel estimated at 400 were observed moving southward toward Schorndorf. The TAC was called on to bomb this profitable target. Later at 1800 another column of approximately 600 troops and 50 vehicles were observed moving S through Hosslingstswast. The 976 FA Bn fired on this column causing rapid dispersdon and many casualties.

The 925 FA Bn moved to Bachnang.

This headquarters displaced from Reisach to Sulzbach and opened there at 1500.

S E C R E T

- 21 Apr: Activity in the artillery consisted of movement only: 373 to Hofen, 374 to Hosslinwart, 375 to the same town, and 925 to Rommelshausen. This headquarters moved from Salzbach to Hertmannsweiler at 1530.
- 22 Apr: The 373 FA Bn displaced to Endersbach and did not fire.
The 374 FA Bn displaced to Minolzweiler with little activity.
The 375 FA Bn displaced to Baltsmannsweiler.
The 925 FA Bn fired 1 smoke mission and one preparation.
The 242 FA Bn fired 3 preparations.
- 23 Apr: This headquarters displaced from Hertmannsweiler and opened at Bad Cannstatt at 0923.
The 373 FA Bn moved to Endersbach.
- 24 Apr: All units remained in assembly areas except the 375 FA Bn, which moved to Rommelshausen.
- 25 Apr: Units remained in areas and spent time in care and maintenance of materiel.
- 26 Apr: The Div Arty Hq moved from Badd Cannstatt to Stuttgart, and opened at 1600.
The 373 FA Bn displaced to Ludwigsberg.
- 27 Apr: Units stressed maintenance, care of materiel and training. No change in location of units.
- 28 Apr: Missions and locations of units remained the same.
- 29 Apr: This was the first Sunday spent in rest, relaxation and religious services.
- 30 Apr: Original orders from higher headquarters specified that this division occupy Stuttgart, but due to insistence by the French that the city was theirs and to eliminate any further complications the battalions moved back across the river and occupied areas in the vicinity of Goppingen.
This headquarters moved to Uhingen.
The 373 FA Bn moved to Goppingen.
The 374 FA Bn moved to Lorch.
The 375 FA Bn remained in Rommelshausen.
The 925 FA Bn moved to Alberhausen.
The month of April closes with the 100th Division in 7th Army reserve.
- With the front lines well over 100 miles away, due to the rapid collapse of the German Army, the big question in all minds is, What next? It is unlikely that we will be committed again in this theater of operations, the remaining two possibilities are either going to the CBI or occupying an area in Germany.

HEADQUARTERS 100TH DIVISION ARTILLERY
APO 447 U S ARMY

HISTORY

1 May 1945

Thru

30 Sept 1945

S E C R E T

DA File

* S E C R E T *
Auth: 8G 100 Div Arty
*Init: JH/4 *
*Date: 5 June 1945 *

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S E C R E T

S E C R E T

Hq DA CP - Schwabisch Gmund	925 CP - Waiblingen
AOP - Muttlangen	A - Korb
373 CP - Schwabisch Gmund	B - Winnenden
A - "	C - Schwaileheim
B - Heubach	Sv - Endersbach
C - Eschach	292 Obsn Bn CP - Schwabisch Gmund
Sv - Unter Bobingen	A - "
374 CP - Welzheim	B - "
A - Pluderhausen	
B - Alfdorf	
C - Phahlbronn	
Sv - Lorch	
375 CP - Schorndorf	
A - Geradftetten	
B - Unterflehlehtbach	
C - Reichenbach	
Sv - Engelberg	

Orders were issued by this headquarters for a complete survey of installations within the units as to DPs. Findings are listed below showing nationality, location and number of DPs in each camp:

At Schwabisch Gmund	- Russian	- 9000
"	- French	- 52
"	- Others	- 5000
Endersbach	- Russian	- 268
Waiblingen	- Others	- 1000
Schorndorf	- Russian	- 500
"	- Polish	- 120
"	- Others	- 110
Steinbach	- Italian	- 56
Unterbach	- Russian	- 150
Schorndorf	- Greek	- 150
Pluterhausen	- Polish	- 40
Pluterhausen	- Russian	- 60

The administration, feeding and guarding of the above camps is essential insofar as law and order of the community is not effected. This headquarters and military government procure food from the surrounding country and deliver it to the CP camps daily. Every effort is being made to set up local control of camps by persons within the camps. The overall success of this operation cannot be determined at this time, but in the larger camps it appears to have done well. All camps have had to be guarded at all times for the protection of DPs and German civilians. The guarding of these camps has put a great burden on the units and the only answer to the problem as it looks this month is the complete evacuation of all DPs back to their respective countries. Another thirth days will be required to evacuate these persons from this area pursuant to orders from higher headquarters.

There have been a few cases of looting reported but is has been on a small scale and immediate investigation proved the amounts taken to be small and of moderate value. This looting has been done by small bands of DPs and the items taken were Schnapps and food. Constant road patrols have reduced looting in this area to a minimum.

S E C R E T

The Division at the first of the month was in 7th Army reserve with the function of guard of the area occupied. The Division Artillery was deployed well back of the front lines as follows:

Hq DA CP - Udingen	375 CP - Urbach
373 CP - Goppingen	925 CP - Udingen
374 CP - Lorch	AOP - Udingen

The situation on the front indicated that this Division would not be called on again to fight in Europe and higher headquarters called on the Division Artillery for seventy 2½-ton trucks to form trucking companies to augment the Quartermaster supply transportation. The trucking companies were organized and the result was that the Division became immobile until their return.

All the light battalions were still under Combat Team control, and their primary mission was the guarding of road, bridges, captured enemy supply points, and the organization of Displaced Personnel centers.

With the closing of hostilities on 9 May 45, the various units held appropriate ceremonies and all persons were given the day off insofar as possible, with adequate guards maintained.

In addition to occupational duties, the units carried on a training program consisting of the following subjects. Gun drills, foot marches, orientation, athletics and recreation, gunnery classes.

The Division received their defined area for occupation on the 10th of May, units under this headquarters were deployed as follows:

Hq DA CP - Swabisch-Gmund	925 CP - Weizenstein
373 CP - S-Gmund	A - Steinheim
A - Ruppertshofen	B - Henbach
B - Altdorf	C - Lauterburg
C - Eschach	Sv - Donzdorf
Sv - Unt Bobingen	AOP - Mutlangen
374 CP - Lorch	898 AA CP - S-Gmund
A - Pluderhausen	A - Mutlangen
B - Hobenstanfen	B - Tomerdigen
C - Unt Kirneck	C - Bohmenkirch
Sv - Rechberghausen	D - Waldstetten
375 Hq - Schorndorf	
A - Geradstetten	
B - Haubersbronn	
C - Baitmannsulf	
Sv - Endersbach	

The areas within the battalions were divided so that each battery had responsibilities of guarding and controlling traffic within its bounds.

Full cooperation with the local Military Government in the various towns aided the units in getting displaced persons into camps by nationality. Transportation was furnished by the unit to speed up this work.

The number of DPs in the area far exceeded the anticipated number higher headquarters had sent down and the problem of DPs became the primary obstacle to overcome as occupational troops. There were an estimated 20,000 DPs of German-conquered countries in the area. The Div Arty was instrumental in evacuating 3000 French DPs back to French authorities this side of the Kuehu River.

Higher headquarters issued new sectors on 14 May, and this caused a new Div Arty area assignment from this headquarters. The units moved on that date and occupied the following areas:

S E C R E T

There was one reported case of rape in this area by two men, one a German civilian and the other a Negro soldier. Medical reports indicate story to be true, the men involved were apprehended and turned over to Division MPs. Accusations of attempted rape cases have been proven false in nearly all cases.

During the month there was one case of suicide reported in the area and the local Burgomeister and Military Government agree it was a clear case of suicide, as the man was a drunkard and was refused admittance to all taverns. He took his life by hanging himself from the crossbar of a high tension power pole.

One German civilian was shot on 24 May, the incident was reported to this headquarters that Russian DPs had shot the man in the stomach. He was taken to the Welzheim hospital where he died on 26 May.

Several reports have come in on Hitler Youth movements, but upon investigation these proved to be more fiction than fact.

Screening of able bodied men of military age in the areas have produced a few former SS troops who changed into civilian clothes as the army marched through all towns. Such cases have been turned over to the Division MPs and placed in POW inclosures.

In one instance the local Burgomeister proved to be pro-Nazi and had to be evacuated and a new one appointed by Military Government; but the overall cooperation of the Burgomeisters in this area has been excellent.

Hospitals within this area have been checked for POWs in them. Investigation of the fifteen hospitals found 94 POWs in such condition that they could not be moved, so local guards have been placed on them. Sanitary conditions of German hospitals was not of the highest type, all sterilization is done by steam and the coal supply is limited. Paper bandages are used to a great extent. Penicillin is an Allied product and the German Doctors have not been able to use it on war casualties.

The French soldiers who caused some trouble in the area by looting have all been turned over to the French authorities. French soldiers entering the area must carry orders from the French Army as to their mission in this area before they are allowed to pass our boundaries.

The policy of non-fraternization set forth by higher headquarters has been carried out in this area with great success. Summary Courts within the units have dealt with the few cases that have been found.

The morale of the units as a whole has been excellent. This is partly due to the entertainment, athletics, guided tours conducted by each unit within the command. Passes to Army controlled rest centers has greatly aided the men to relax from their normal duties.

Occupational duties are now clearly defined, but the big question of "Army of Occupation" or "Pacific Theater" has not been answered by higher headquarters.

The month of June opened with the 100th Div Arty located in the Gmund Kreis with full occupational duties therein. Units of the artillery were located as follows:

Hq DA	-	Swabisch Gmund
373rd FA Bn	-	" "
374th FA Bn	-	Pluderhausen
375th FA Bn	-	Swabisch Gmund
925th FA Bn	-	Waiblingen

With the formation of additional provisional trucking companies and DP teams and their rapid entry into the movement of DP's the many DP camps located throughout the sector had their populace decreased by hundreds daily. This tended to relieve the heavy drain on the local food supply.

Training orders were issued by this Hq to all battalions specifying that they would prepare for movement to the firing range in the near future for serviced practice. This broke up the monotony of occupational work and gave battery commanders an opportunity to reorganize their firing teams for future operations.

On the 9th of June the 925th FA Bn moved to the firing range located in the vicinity of Munsingen. They were relieved on the 16th by the 375th FA Bn. The Bn CO of the 925th reported the weeks firing as profitable and that the men took quite an interest in training again. This Bn occupied the area vacated by the 375th in Swabisch Gmund and vicinity.

After a full week of firing practice the 375th FA Bn moved from the range to Heubach where they occupied positions vacated by the 373rd FA Bn who moved to the range in preparation for the following weeks practice. This exchange took place on the 23 June 1945.

We were informed on this date 23 June 1945 that the division would lose a large number of officers and enlisted personnel who might be in one of three different classifications namely 85 points and class D personnel and those that had served in two theaters of combat. The following day orders transferred 14 of these men to the 36th Division which is one of the occupational divisions in occupied Germany. On the 24th 80 more valuable EM were transferred to the 63rd Division which ~~is~~ scheduled to return to the US at an early date. On the 25th another group of 77 were transferred to the 36th Division. Then after a 5 day breathing spell, 15 key officers were transferred to the 63rd Division. As the majority of the above personnel key positions prior to their transfer all commanders were busy and greatly concerned with re-organizing and requisitioning suitable replacements to bring their units up to the standards required of combat units.

On the 30th of June as the month closed the 374th FA Bn located at Pluderhausen exchanged places with the 373rd FA Bn who was then finishing its week at the firing range.

Thus a full month of occupational operations closes without the occurrence of any incident of military importance. In spite of the uncertainty of our future the morale of troops is very high.

HEADQUARTERS 100TH DIVISION ARTILLERY
HISTORY JULY 1945

This headquarters continued operations in Schwabisch-Gmund as the month of July opened. Normal occupational and security duties playing the important roles of all units. Upon receipt of notice that the 4th of July would be observed as a national holiday, all units were notified to hold appropriate exercises in their respective areas. Parades and recreational activities were participated in by the majority of personnel. Noticeable during the parades was the respect paid by the Germans for the various military ceremonies held by U S troops.

At 1800 on 6 July 45 the 100th Div Arty was relieved of its responsibility by the 36th Div Arty. On the 7th of July this headquarters moved to Boblingen, approximately 15 miles SW of Stuttgart. French troops located in the area were relieved of their responsibility of the Boblingen Kreis by all units of the 100th Div Arty.

Civilians throughout the Kreis were quite anxious to cooperate with the American occupying forces. Many reports indicated the French troops had thoroughly looted the area and had been consuming a large amount of the available food supply.

On the 21st of the month a surprise inspection of all civilians and troops in the 7th Army area was made. Known as the "Tally-ho" operation, it consisted of a systematic search of all buildings for unauthorized possessions and check of all personnel for proper credentials. Small quantities of ammunition, fire-arms and GI equipment were found. A large number of German soldiers were found roaming the area without proper discharge papers.

Outside of training and occupational duties, troops were taking quite an interest in athletics and other recreational facilities as provided by the USO and SSO agencies.

The month of July closed with the one big question paramount in the minds of all: How soon will the Japs fold; then What and When and Where for the 100th Division?

Entry into the month of August finds the entire Artillery carrying on its security and occupational duties without any incidents of particular note.

With the majority of the Displaced Persons and Prisoners of War moved out of the area, the tremendous feeding, clothing, housing and moving problems presented in previous months has been reduced to small groups throughout Kreis Boblingen.

On the 15th, the Artillery suffered its greatest personnel loss, when orders directed that Brig Gen John B. Murphy move to the US to take command of Ft Logan, Colorado. Thus our leader who so successfully trained us and efficiently led us through combat leaves us to further successes.

Shortly after Gen Murphy's departure we were glad to learn that our new commander would be Brig Gen Theodore B. Buechler, the original commander of the 100th Div Arty. This news was well received by all, as there were many in our ranks who remembered his period of command during those trying days of basic training.

September passed without change in disposition of troops or occupational duties. Continued transfer of high point personnel in small groups presented the biggest operating problem.

In spite of the uncertainty of the movement of the Division, morale continued very high. This was largely due to the extensive recreational and athletic program provided throughout all units. Coming to the front at this time and getting splendid support we have football, which is packing in large crowds at every game.