

8: REYERSVILLER

On 5 December the 398th Infantry Regiment consolidated its positions on the high ground of Soucht, Meisenthal and Wingen. All three battalions were now abreast of each other; with Anti-tank Company protecting the flanks and rear they awaited the word that would send them hurtling towards Reyersviller—the last fortified town before the Maginot Line and Bitche. Meanwhile, the 397th and 399th Infantry Regiments were moving up on the right under the flank protection of the 398th.

On 11 December the Regiment leapfrogged the 399th under the leadership of Col. Paul G. Daly who had relieved Colonel Fooks. The 1st Battalion, with Company A reorganized and composed of replacements and veterans of other companies in the battalion, proceeded north to a point four miles southeast of Lemberg. The 2d and 3d Battalions met heavy resistance as they pushed past Lemberg.

German resistance had become increasingly evident as we approached the gates to Bitche. Artillery fire was heavier and curtains of automatic fire screened strongpoints and towns. At the slightest provocation the Germans poured in artillery. For



Reyersviller—gateway to Bitche



Before the push

the next two days the Regiment moved with caution as it jockeyed into position for the attack on Reyersviller. Then suddenly on 13 December like a cloudburst the 398th swept in upon Reyersviller behind a rolling barrage of artillery fire from the 375th Field Artillery Battalion. With the 2d Battalion in the lead pillboxes and strongpoints, which only a short time ago were spitting fire and raking the terrain before them, were blasted open. The Krauts who could, came stumbling out to surrender. The battalion continued on to the high ground north of Reyersviller with Company F being the first unit of the 100th Division to reach the Maginot Line and come under the fire of its heavy guns. Outside of the town the Regiment dug in before the divisional objective, Bitche.