

HEADQUARTERS 399TH INFANTRY
A. P. O. 447 U. S. ARMY

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SUBJECT: Regimental History

TO : TAG, War Department, Washington, D. C.
(Through channels)

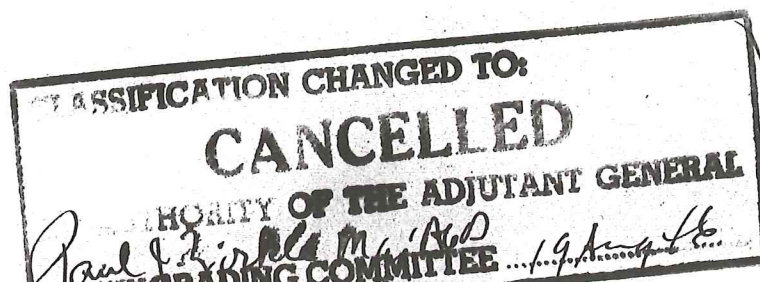
Transmitted herewith Regimental History of
399th Infantry Regiment for the month of June, 1945.

FOR THE COMMANDING OFFICER:

PATRICK C. HENNIGAN
Capt., 399th Infantry
Adjutant

12 Incls:

- 1 - Regt'l History (in quin)
- 2 - Copy S-1 Strength Reports
- 3 - Copy S-1 Roster of Key Officers
- 4 - Copy S-1 Personnel Losses through Readjustment
- 5 - Copy S-1 General Orders: Awards and Decorations
- 6 - Copy S-2 Periodic Reports and Overlays
- 7 - Copy S-2 Journal
- 8 - Copy S-3 Operations Instructions
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- 11 - Copy S-2, S-3 Journal of each Battalion
- 12 - Reference Maps



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NARRATIVE HISTORY

of the

399TH INFANTRY REGIMENT
(Annex Included)

- . GERMANY
- . 1-30 June
- . 1945

MAP REFERENCES

REUTLINGEN

Germany, 1:100,000
First Edition AMS 2

W-3

Compiled by US Army Map Serv, 1943 from German G.S. Maps

ULM

Germany 1:100,000
First Edition AMS 2

W-4

Compiled by US Army Map Serv, 1943 from German G.S. Maps

The opening of the month of June found the Regiment continuing with the mission of occupying and maintaining security in its assigned sector. During the period June 1st to 3rd, inclusive, the Regimental Headquarters was still in Blaubeuren. In the Special Units Bn, CN Co was located in Herrlingen, while AT Co was stationed in Magolsheim, and SV Co, in Laichingen.

The 1st Bn CP, as well as "A", "C", and "D" Cos, occupied the town of Göppingen. Co "B" was in Uchingen.

Laichingen was still headquarters of the 2nd Bn as well as for Co "G". "E" Co was located in Lonsee, and Co "F" occupied Langenau. The town of Weisensteig was occupied by "H" Co.

The CP of the 3rd Bn was in Ober Lenningen, while "I", "K", "L", and "M" Cos were in Kirchheim, Nürtingen, Altes Lager, and Neuffen, respectively.

Training, as called for by Division O.I. No. 77, was continued for these few days as well as the guarding of installations in the area. No additional installations were added to the guard list during the period.

Athletics and entertainment continued to take the spot-light in the activities of the period. With regard to the former, a number of Division Softball League games were played.

In the Red League, the 1st and 2nd Bns of our Regiment played each other in Göppingen on June 1st. The 2nd Bn won by the very decisive score of 8 to 0. On the following day, the 2nd Bns of the 397th and 399th Regiments played in Weisenhorn, where the 399th won 3 to 0. Also on June 2nd, our 1st Bn played the 3rd Bn of the 397th in

Göppingen. 3rd Bn of the 397th won by the close score of 1 to 0.

The 325th Med Bn and the 4th Bn of our Regiment, members of the White League, played in Blaubeuren on June 3rd. The "Medics" were defeated 2 to 1.

In addition to the organized games, many intra-platoon and intra-company games were played, both softball and volleyball, and despite the great distances, a few inter-company games were also played. Practically the entire personnel of the Regiment took part in some form of athletic play each day of this period.

The Russian Show No. 2 played to a capacity house of 1st Bn men on June 1st. On Saturday, June 2nd, a French USO Show performed for the 3rd Bn, while the Regimental Dance Band played at a Regimental Headquarters party held that same evening at the swimming pool in Blaubeuren.

During this 3 day period, 7 PWs were taken to bring the Regimental score to 4178.

A number of new installations were guarded during the second week, June 4th to 10th, inclusive. An ammunition dump and an airport in Göppingen were guarded by "C" Co of the 1st Bn. 3rd Bn assumed jurisdiction over several new installations. A rubber factory at Weilheim was guarded by Co "I", while "K" Co maintained the security of two Russian barracks, one at Nurtingen and the other at Wendlingen. "L" and "M" Cos established check points at Groun and Kohlberg, respectively.

A total of 13 PWs were taken during this period, a number of which were acknowledged Nazi fanatics. The Regimental total as of the end of the week was 4191.

Throughout this period, as during the last week, al-

most every member of the Regiment continued to take part in some form of athletics each afternoon. Volleyball and softball were again the leading sports, with many games being played within the platoons as well as intra-company games. Distance still held the number of inter-company games to a minimum.

In the field of organized athletics, only one Division Softball League game was played. On June 6th, the 2nd Bn of our Regiment became the champions of the Red League. Playing at Langenau, they defeated by the score of 3 to 2 the 4th Bn of the 397th Infantry Regiment, thereby remaining undefeated in 5 contests.

Bronze Star presentation ceremonies were held by each Bn in this second period of June. The first ceremony was held by 1st Bn on June 5th at Göttingen.

Marching onto the field at 1500 hours, the four companies were brought into mass formation, flanking the Colors, with the Division Band on the extreme right. The men to be decorated formed a line in front of the troops. Brig. Gen. John Murphy, Acting Division Commander, made 51 awards, 4 of which were Oak Leaf Clusters.

The following day, June 6th, the Special Units Bn held a similar ceremony on the parade field in Blaubeuren. With the Regimental Staff and officers and enlisted men of AT, CN, SV, and Regimental Hq present, Brig. Gen. Murphy awarded 3 Oak Leaf Clusters and 39 Bronze Stars.

3rd Bn held its ceremony on June 7th in Kirchheim. With the companies lined up in eight man fronts, Lt. Col. Bernard V. Lentz, Commander of Troops, presented the Battalion to Brig. Gen. Andrew C. Tychsen, Assistant Division Commander. General Tychsen awarded 2 Oak Leaf Clusters

and 45 Bronze Stars.

At a presentation exercise held on the afternoon of June 9th at Laichingen, Bronze Stars were awarded to men of the 2nd Bn. After the troops were brought into formation, the Battalion was presented to Brig. Gen. Andrew C. Tychsen, the awarding officer, by the Commander of Troops, Major William Ong. General Tychsen made a total of 52 awards.

A minor move was made on June 9th when "L" and "M" Cos exchanged zones of occupation. Co "L" located in Neuffen while Altes Lager was occupied by "M" Co.

The training program was continued during the period with little change. Emphasis was maintained on military courtesy, military bearing and neatness of personal appearance, as well as the training of understudies for all key positions and the development of junior officers and non-commissioned officers.

The daily training consisted of two periods, as follows: 0800 to 1200, devoted to calisthenics, dismounted drill, marches, lectures on interior guard duty and tactics of the individual soldier, etc.; and 1300 to 1700, with care, cleaning, and maintenance of clothing, equipment, vehicles, and weapons being stressed as well as orientation and organized athletics.

For the purpose of cleaning up Altes Lager in preparation for occupancy by a complete battalion, 200 German PWs were trucked from Ulm daily. The operation was stopped on June 10th, however, when the loss of Altes Lager by a move of the Regiment from the area became apparent.

The week of the 11th to 17th of June, inclusive,

opened with the Regiment making a withdrawal into a smaller area. Having guarded an area approximately 45 kilometers in width and 70 in length, the Regiment withdrew into the northwest section of the area, being relieved by elements of the 36th Infantry Division and of the 397th Regiment. The guarding of installations and maintenance of security in an area 20 by 30 kilometers, taking in portions of Reutlingen, Nurtlingen and Esslingen Landkreis, was the mission of the Regiment.

"B" and "D" Cos initiated the shuttle movement of 1st Bn when they moved to Nurtlingen, closing at 1530 hours on June 12th, where they were joined at 1730 by Co "C". The following day, "A" Co and the Bn CP closed into Nurtlingen, the former at 1100 and the latter at 1530 hours.

All units of the 2nd Bn moved by shuttle to Kirchheim. Cos "E" and "F" were the first to move, closing at 1315 hours of June 13th, with the Bn CP closing at 1345 hours. At 1700 hours on the following day, "G" Co located in Kirchheim, followed by Co "H", which closed at 2015 hours.

The shuttle movement of the 3rd Bn was started by "K" Co, when, on June 12th, it closed into Beuren at 1505. "I" Co moved to Bissingen while Co "L" moved to Hulben, closing at 1500 and 1800 hours, respectively, on June 13th.

Special Units moved on June 14th. Regimental Headquarters moved from Blaubeuren to Kirchheim, the CP opening in Kirchheim at 1030. CN and AT Cos both moved to Reichenbach, the former closing at 1130, the latter at 1830 hours. CN Co relieved Co "E" of the 398th Regiment. SV Co moved to Weilheim.

The Provisional Training Company, organized on May 31st out of 173 reinforcements, was disbanded on June

13th. It was designed primarily to check the standards of the previous training of the men through instruction and tests of the degree of proficiency in basic subjects. In addition, the men were oriented in the history and accomplishments, and present mission of the Regiment and Division. The revisions of the Regimental zone of occupation, however, caused the disbandment of the Provisional Company because of lack of adequate training facilities in the new sector. The men were returned to their assigned organizations for training, tests, and retraining.

The training schedule was maintained during this period as far as practicable. The program continued to stress military discipline, military courtesy, military bearing and neatness of personal appearance, physical conditioning and orientation.

The total PW take of the Regiment was raised by one count during this week June 11th to 17th, inclusive, bringing it to 4192.

On Saturday, June 16th, part of the 1st Bn moved to Göppingen to relieve the 397th Regiment, less 1st Bn, of all targets and area patrols in its area in the Göppingen Landkreis. "A" Co, plus a platoon from each of "B", "C", and "D" Cos completed the relief by 1730 hours.

No new installations were listed for guarding in this third period. Those installations in the area the Regiment closed into during the first part of the week, with the exception of the CN and AT areas in the Landkreis of Esslingen, had been under the Regiment's jurisdiction prior to the move. In the new area, occupied by CN and AT Cos, two road check points and an area patrol were instituted by CN Co. The installations taken over upon relief of

elements of the 397th Regiment by organizations of our 1st Bn had been within our former area of occupation.

The War Department Training Film "On to Tokyo", a short 15minute film giving the answers to many questions regarding redeployment and readjustment, was presented to the Regiment.

The movement of 2000 Russian DPs from the Regimental area was started on June 17th. Using transportation furnished by the Burgomeister of Kirchheim, all the Russians in the town of Nurtigen were trucked to a DP camp in Göppingen. After being deloused, the DPs were put on one of three daily trains, stocked with German food and water furnished by the Allied Military Government, and sent to the vicinity of Leipzig. 4000 Russian DPs are shipped daily from the railhead at Göppingen.

In the entertainment field, a number of amateur shows were presented by several organizations during the period June 11th to 17th, inclusive. These productions were more popularly received than the professional shows, and drew a larger crowd. "K" Co, of the 3rd Bn, presented an amateur show on June 11th. On the 14th, Co "M" exhibited its amateur talent.

The French Show "Roughing It in the ETO", a USO Production, and said to be the best professional production we have seen to date, played to full houses three times during the period. With an approximate attendance of 1800, all Bns saw it on June 15th and 16th.

During the fourth period of the month, June 18th to 24th, inclusive, two new installations were added to the security list. The guarding of a speed boat motor factory at Wendlingen was undertaken by Co "F" of the 2nd

Bn. "F" Co also had jurisdiction over a woolen textile factory located in the same town.

The training program was continued during the period. Military courtesy, military discipline, physical conditioning, and efficiency in performance of the present mission of the Regiment were particularly stressed.

A Danish Show from the 397th Regiment, playing to all units of the Division, was one of the features of the entertainment program. Playing to capacity audiences, the show performed on June 18th, 19th, and 20th for men of the 1st, 2nd, and 3rd Bns, respectively.

Amateur shows were staged by several companies. In addition, the Regimental Dance Band played to all organizations of the Regiment. On Monday, June 18th, the members of 2nd Bn and of Special Units saw a performance in Kirchheim. 3rd and 1st Bns viewed the presentation on June 19th and 20th, respectively.

The Regiment scored another victory in athletics during the period. Our 2nd Bn, champions of the first Division Softball Red League Round-Robbin Tournament, decisively defeated the champions of the 36th Infantry Division softball teams. Playing on June 19th at Kirchheim, the 2nd Bn of the 141st Regiment was defeated by the score of 3 to 0.

Two games were scheduled to be played to initiate the second Round-robbin tournament of the Division Softball Red League. The first game, however, between our 1st and 2nd Bns, was forfeited in the favor of the latter. On June 21st, the 3rd and 4th Bns played at Reichenbach. 3rd Bn won by the close score of 3 to 2.

The completion of the movement of 2000 Russian DPs from the Regimental area was accomplished within the week. On June 18th, DPs from the towns of Weilheim, Wendingen, and Kirchheim were trucked to Göppingen in city-owned vehicles to entrain for the vicinity of Leipzig. The following day, more Russian DPs from the small towns in the area were gathered and sent out, with the remaining stragglers being moved on June 20th.

During the period June 18th to 24th, inclusive, a total of 13PWS were taken to bring the Regimental total to 4205. Of this number, 9 were automatic arrests.

On June 23rd, the transfer out of the Regiment of men under the readjustment program to other Divisions was started. By the close of the period, 171 enlisted men had been transferred. 125 men with over 85 points were sent to the 63rd Infantry Division, while the remaining 46 men, of "D" profile or who had been in two or more theatres, were sent to the 36th Infantry Division.

The training program was continued during the period June 25th to 30th, inclusive. Stress was placed particularly on military discipline, physical conditioning, tactics of the individual soldier and small units, and development of crews for crew served weapons. Emphasis on military courtesy, military bearing and neatness of personal appearance was maintained.

On June 26th, the organizations which previously had relieved temporarily elements of the 397th Regiment of occupational duties in Göppingen returned to Nurtlingen. They were Co "A" and one platoon from "B", "C", and "D" Cos, all of the 1st Bn.

Lt. Colonel William Esbitt became Acting Regimental Commander on June 26th upon the absence of Colonel Edward J. Maloney.

The guarding of one new installation was undertaken during the period. "K" Co of the 3rd Bn guarded a mine detector plant at Beuren, placing the first guards on June 25th.

Throughout the period, a total of 183 enlisted men and 22 officers were transferred out of the Regiment under the readjustment program. All of the enlisted men except one were sent to the 36th Infantry Division, one of the Divisions to which are sent men with "D" profiles or who have been in two or more theatres. The remaining enlisted man and the officers were sent to Divisions taking men with 85 points or more. The enlisted man and 17 officers were transferred to the 63rd Infantry Division, while 3 officers were sent to the 36th Infantry Division and 2, to the 12th Armored Division.

A total of 46 enlisted men and 14 officers were transferred into the Regiment under the readjustment program from other Divisions.

The Regimental total of PWs taken totaled 4211 as of June 30th. Of this number, 6 had been apprehended during the last period.