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Narrative Hist (Germany) - 399th Inf Regt

May 45

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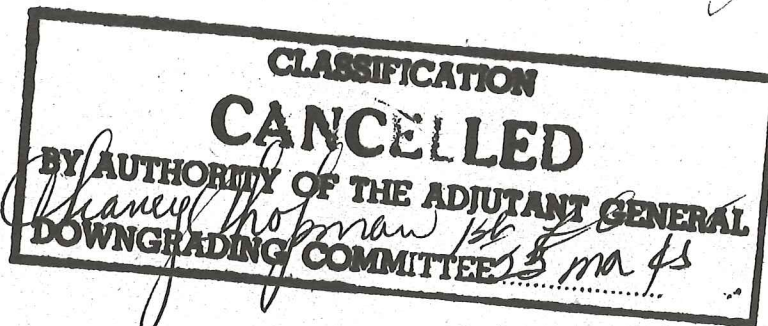
HEADQUARTERS 399TH INFANTRY
A.P.O. 447 U.S.ARMY

11 June 1945

SUBJECT: Regimental History
TO : TAG, War Dep't., Washington, D.C.
(through channels)

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

Edward J. Maloney
EDWARD J. MALONEY
Colonel, 399th Infantry
Commanding



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 Periodic Reports and Overlays, and Operations
Instructions
- 9 - Copy S-3 Journal
- 10- Copy S-4 Ammunition Expenditure
- 11- Copy S-2, S-3 Journal of each Battalion
- 12- Reference Maps

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NARRATIVE HISTORY

of
the

399th INFANTRY

Germany
1-31 May
1945

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NARRATIVE HISTORY
OF THE
399TH INFANTRY REGIMENT
(Annex Included)

• GERMANY
• 1-31 MAY
• 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 first week of May, the 1st to the 6th inclusive, found the Regimental CP in Kirchheim. The 1st Bn had its CP in Reichenbach where "C" and "D" Cos were also located. Cos "A" and "B" were situated in Ebersbach. The CP of the 2nd Bn was in the town of Boll, with Cos "E" and "G". "F" Co was located in Dürnan, while Co "H" was stationed in Heiningen. The 3rd Bn CP was in Jessingen, with "I", "K", "L", and "M" Cos being located in Schlierbach, Holzmaden, Ohmden and Notzingen, respectively.

The town of Holtenhofen was occupied by the CP of the 925th FA Bn, along with "B" Bty. Service and "C" Btys were located in Albershausen, while "A" Bty was stationed in Uhingen.

The Regimental Combat Team was still in 7th Army reserve. The men continued, therefore, to enjoy a much needed rest, after having spent 175 days on the line. They all lived in German houses, where many enjoyed the use of good beds and of sleeping between sheets, as well as the comforts of living rooms and radios.

From the food point of view, an all-important item to the men, we were now stationary and could enjoy three hot meals a day.

Our men also had the opportunity of taking frequent hot showers, or of relaxing in a hot bath. They could shave daily, and could don clean clothes frequently, as there were ample facilities and time for the washing of clothes.

The training and athletic schedules, as called for by Division O.I. No. 77, were continued daily during this period, with the exception of Sunday, May 6th. Emphasis continued to be placed on maintaining standards of military discipline and physical conditioning through dismounted drill and athletics.

Within the Regimental area, the guarding of installations and patrolling of the area was also continued.

On the 1st of May at 1800 hours, "C" Co, 325th Med Bn and the 1st Platoon of Co "C", 325th Engr Bn were released from our combat team.

The same day, O.I. No. 81, issued at 1400 hours, ordered that all units maintain radio silence.

On the 1st of May, the murder of two Germans in Kircheim was brought to our attention. Several Russian D.P.s, having a disagreement some time past with their German overseer in a factory, had decided to settle the score by murdering the man.

They went to the factory for that purpose and, perchance, a friend of the German overseer happened to be there. A Russian D.P., an ex-officer, signed a confession of having murdered both men, and dissecting them beyond recognition.

A number of areas were cleared during the period. The 2nd Bn swept the woods to the SW of Kirchheim on May 1st, capturing 8 Krauts. On May 2nd, "K" Co swept the woods to the W of Kirchheim, while the area in the vicinity of Haringen was cleared by "M" Co the following day. In both cases, a negative report was turned in.

Several moves were made during the week. On May 2nd, "L" and "M" Cos of the 3rd Bn moved from Ohmden and Notzingen, respectively, into Kirchheim, closing at 1145. The following day, the 3rd Bn CP was also moved to Kirchheim, closing at 1125, while "K" Co closed into Holzmaden.

Our total PW take for the week numbered 87, bringing our Regimental total to 4043. Of this number, 1st Bn is credited with 4, while the 2nd Bn was credited with 8, captured when sweeping the woods. The 3rd Bn picked up 13. In the town of Kirchheim, the MP section took 15 Jerries without a fight. Seven of these were dressed in civilian cloths. All of them had been separated from their units for some time, most of which had been dissolved by our rapid advance. Hq Co took the honors, however, with a weekly score of 47.

The second week of the month was one of excellent weather. It was warm and clear the entire period, allowing everyone to enjoy relaxing out of doors. Sunbathing and playing "catch" in the streets of the villages became a favorite pastime during off-duty hours.

This week of May 7th to 13th, inclusive, was also a week of increased activity. Besides celebrating V-E day and playing the Regimental semi-finals and finals in softball, a major move was made on the 10th.

There was no change in the training and athletic program this week, with the exception that the 3rd Bn located in the town of Jessingen, included a MG range located nearby in its schedule.

On May 7th, the semi-finals of the inter-Bn softball tournament were played at Kirchheim. The 1st Bn champions, Co "D", met and defeated Hq Co, 3rd Bn winners by the score of 7 to 2. Winning by the decisive score of 6 to 2, Cn Co, champions of Special Units, defeated the winners of the 2nd Bn, "F" Co.

In the finals played on the following day, "D" Co edged out Cn Co by the score of 7 to 6 to become the Regimental champions.

On these occasions, as many troops were trucked to the games by each unit as transportation facilities permitted. Both the semi-finals and finals were played before a large crowd of G.I.s supporting their particular teams.

May 7th was the red-letter day in Europe. For on that day, at 0141 hours Central European time, the unconditional surrender of Germany was negotiated. We received the following dispatch:

"A representative of the German High command signed the unconditional surrender of all German land, sea, and air forces in Europe to the allied Expeditionary Force and simultaneously to the Soviet High Command at 0141 hours central European time, 7 May under which all forces will cease active operations at 0001B hours 9 May.

"Effective immediately all offensive operations by Allied Expeditionary Force will cease and troops will remain in present positions. Moves involved in occupational duties will continue. Due to the difficulties of communication there may be some delay in similar orders reaching enemy troops so full defensive precautions will be taken.

"All informed down to and including Divisions, tactical air commands and troops, base sections, and equivalent. No release will be made to the press pending an announcement by the heads of the three governments.

Signed EISENHOWER"

Our Division started on Nov 1, 1944 to do its share toward crushing the formidable enemy. In so doing, it achieved an enviable record. The Vosges Mts. had been forced for the first time in military history. The fortress of Bitché fell for the first time when it was taken by the Century Division and now, when this announcement was received, the Division was well across the Rhine and at rest after completing 175 consecutive days on the line. This is a record length of combat for the first commitment of a division to line.

The men knew they had won this great war from a military standpoint. But they were beginning to realize more than ever the tremendous task ahead of us, the winning of the peace.

Regiment celebrated V-E day on May 9th. Throughout the combat team, the troops busied themselves early in the morning by cleaning their weapons and improving their personal appearance for the victory celebration. With the day dawning clear and warm, the weather promised to be perfect for the celebration.

Each Bn held its own ceremony. The 1st Bn held its ceremony, with all the Bn troops attending, on the parade grounds in Reichenbach. Major Condee C. Nason, Ex. O, made a short speech setting forth the reason for the ceremony, which was followed by a prayer given by the Regimental Chaplain, Chaplain Massey. The V-E day proclamations of President Truman and Gen.

Eisenhower were read by Capt Herbert D. Prather, BN S-3. The National Anthem was then played by a portion of the Division Band. Closing prayers were given by Chaplain Kazareck, Assistant Regimental Chaplain.

Holding its celebration at Bad Boll, the companies of the 2nd Bn were formed at the IP at 0930 hours. The 925th Field Artillery Bn was also formed there after having arrived by truck from their occupational area.

At IP time, the companies moved in a mass formation (column of companies) in columns of four to the ceremony grounds facing the reviewing stand. The companies marched in to the accompaniment of lively military airs of the 100th Infantry Division Band. Upon arriving at the ceremony grounds, the Battalions were massed, with the 2nd Bn, 399th Infantry, on the right and the 925th Field Artillery on the left. The Battalions were separated by the colors. The troops were in position and on the line by 1015. The reviewing dignitaries were the 100th Division Commander, the Division Artillery Commander, and the Assistant Division Commander. The Ruffles were sounded the instant the dignitaries stepped from their car.

The general officers were led to the reviewing stand by the Regimental Commander. On the stand, awaiting the arrival of the procession, were the Staff of the 925th Field Artillery Battalion and Chaplains Massey and Kozarak. When all were seated, Lt. Col. George F. Spiegel, in a short address, announced the reason for the occasion and then asked Chaplain Massey to give the invocation. At the completion of the invocation, the Division Band played a selection of military airs. Col. Spiegel then read President Truman's message to the troops. After the completion of this, General Burress, the 100th Infantry Division Commander, addressed the men. He commended them for their splendid accomplishments in combat and wished them Godspeed in future operations. Then

Chaplain Kozarak gave the benediction. The 100th Infantry Division Band ended the ceremonies with an appropriate air.

The remainder of the day was utilized in athletics by the troops. They participated in soft base ball games, volley ball and badminton.

The 3rd Bn and Special Units joined in holding a ceremony at Kirchheim, with Capt Boyd V. Burnett commanding the 3rd Bn and Capt William H. Good commanding Special Units. The troops marched in mass formation (column of companies) in columns of four to the ceremony grounds. Upon reaching the grounds, the Bns were massed with the 3rd Bn on the right of the colors and Special Units Bn on the left. The Division Band took up a position on the extreme right.

After the taking of reports from the Battalion Commanders by Lt. Colonel Bernard V. Lentz, Chaplain Massey, the Regimental Chaplain, read the invocation. The order was given to the troops to be seated and the Division Band played a selection of military airs. This was followed by the reading of President Truman's and General Eisenhower's Victory Day Proclamation by Lt Colonel Lentz. After being brought to attention, the National Anthem was played, followed by the benediction by Chaplain Kozarak, Assistant Regimental Chaplain. Troops returned to their respective area upon order of Lt Colonel Lentz.

The 925th FA Bn was released from attachment to the Regimental Combat Team on May 10th, at 0800 hours.

On 10th of May, the Regiment moved to a new sector in the vicinity of Kirchheim, Gerstetten and Blaubeuren, relieving elements of the 12th Armored and of the 63rd Infantry Divisions. The new area the Regiment was to guard measured approximately

35 kilometers in width by about 65 kilometers in length.

The sector in the middle of the Regimental zone was taken over by the 2nd Bn, which moved there by shuttle, starting at 0800 hours.

The 1st Bn, starting at 0800, moved to its new sector in the eastern part of the Regimental zone, closing at 1030 hours. The Bn CP was set up at Langenau. "A" Co moved to Gerstetten, while "B" Co occupied Beimerstetten. Co "C" moved into Albech, and "D" Co was split between the two towns, Neenstetten and Weidenstetten.

The 2nd Bn CP was located at Laichingen, opening at 1535. "E" Co moved to Nellingen, while Co "F" opened at Tomerdingen at 1400 hours. "G" Co moved into Laichingen, and "H" Co occupied the town of Weisensteig at 0930 hours.

The 3rd Bn, starting at 0800, shuttled to its new sector in the west portion of the Regimental zone. The CP opened at 1610 at Obr-Lenningen while "I" Co remained in Kirchheim where it relieved AT of the guarding of all installations. "K" Co located in Nurtlingen, closed at 1030. The town of Bohringen was occupied by "L" Co while Co "M" Closed in Unt-Lenningen at 1615 hours.

AT Co moved to Blaubeuren, Cn Co to Gross All'Mendingen, and Service to Laichingen.

The Regimental CP moved from Kirchheim to Blaubeuren on the morning of the 11th, opening at 1045.

On the 13th of May, "L" Co again moved, opening the CP in the military barracks in the vicinity of Altes-Lager at 0900 hours.

While the Regiment had been guarding a few specific installations before the move on the 10th, the duties of guarding now were expanded into those of an occupational army. Besides instituting road patrols by each company of the towns in tis sector, a thorough reconnaissance was conducted by all units for other installations in their sectors.

The move of Cn Co to Gross All'Mendingen brought the protection o f the Portugese Legation under its jurisdiction. After surviving eighty-seven bombings in Stuttgart, legation had been driven to the protection of this small town.

They had become "guests" on the estate of a German Baroness.

Cn Co also had some important installations to guard. Besides having an Engr. Supply Depot in Einsingen under its jurisdiction, it also had a D.P. Camp.

Three hospitals in Blaubeuren, containing 261, 40, and 52 PWs respectively, were guarded by AT Co.. In addition, they maintained the security of a power plant in Blaubeuren and two power plants in Schelklingen, one of which was the power source for a French D.P. Center.

In addition to guarding three trucks loaded with ammunition of all caliber, the 1st Bn guarded two trains. One was an ammunition train, while the other, besides having one car of ammunition, had many cars loaded with machinery and airplane parts. A traffic and DP control was maintained in Nerenstetten and a check was made twice daily of the civilian personnel in a water works at (8595).

The 2nd Bn had a number of important installations within its jurisdiction. Two hospitals, one at Laichingen with 30 PW patients, and the other at Bad Detzenback with 35 PWs, were guarded. At Dornstadt, a Class 3 ATP and an electric motor plant in Sontheim were guarded. Security was maintained over a D.P. Center and an underground airplane parts factory in Wiesensteig.

Within the 3rd Bn's sector there were a number of installations to be guarded, including a winery and a glider factory. In Kirchheim, security was maintained over an ammunition plant, a power house, a mine wherein airplane parts and airplane were

fabricated, a winery, and two factories making bomb parts and airplane parts. A glider factory at Nabern and another airplane parts factory at Nurtingen were also guarded. A hospital containing 46 PW patients was guarded in Altes Lager, as well as

an ammunition dump, a D.P. Camp, and 75 guns, both 75mm and 105mm. Two power plants, one at (295946) and the other at (273977), and two factories, one at Bissengen and the other at Donnstetten, also came within the 3rd Bn jurisdiction.

The move of "L" Co on May 13th to the military barracks at Altes Lager brought them to Germany's equivalent to the Fort Benning Officers Training School. Situated on the outskirts of the city of Munsingen, the camp has brick barracks each capable of housing 60 officer students in private rooms. It is estimated that from 750 to 1000 officer students could train at one time.

The camp has excellent training facilities. In addition to having a good artillery range, there are various small arms ranges. Several groups of stables testify that students could also receive cavalry training. While there are no provisions for tank training, the camp has every terrain feature and piece of equipment necessary to give a thorough course.

While guarding of specific installations was one of the most important parts of the mission, the Regiment also had other important duties, as follow: (1), to insure security of railroads, MSR, petroleum pipelines, and critical signal installations; (2), to collect into Displaced Persons Centers those displaced persons who are migrating, those who are disorderly, those who constitute a security hazard, and those whom the Regiment was specifically requested by the Military Government to collect; (3), to guard Displaced Persons Centers; (4), to guard and dispose of enemy materials and supplies; (5), to disarm and police the civilian population; (6), to support the

Military Government; and, lastly, to exercise disciplinary control of all troops in new sectors, including members of all Allied Forces, whether or not under the command of the 7th Army.

A total of 64 PWs were taken during this second week of May to bring the Regimental total to 4107.

The fine weather of the second week continued throughout the third week, May 14th to 20th, inclusive. Except for two days of occasional spring showers, the weather was exceptionally clear and warm, permitting a maximum of outdoor activity.

The Regiment continued to conduct training in accordance with the provisions of O.I. No. 77 of Division as far as practical. On May 19th, formal inspections were held by all units.

During this period many moves were made. On the first day, May 14th, a minor move was made within the 1st Bn when the CP of "D" Co closed in Gerstetten at 1130 hours.

On May 15th, however, several major moves were made. The Regiment assumed command of a new sector and prepared to move within the boundaries upon relief by elements of Division troops, the 397th Infantry, and 12th AD.

Within the 1st Bn, all units were shifted around. Co "C" moved to Langenau on the 15th, closing at 1000 hours. "D" Co having been split between two towns, Neenstetten and Weidenstetten, the platoons in the former town moved to Gerstetten, but on May 16th the entire company closed into Langenau. The CP opened at 1000. This same day, at 1000, two platoons of Co "B" relieved two platoons of "F" Co of guarding installations in the vicinity of Dornstadt. "A" Co was also shifted to Lonsee, closing at 1130 and on the next day, May 17th, one platoon was sent to Halzhausen.

"E" Co initiated the moving of 2nd Bn when it moved to Merklingen on the 15th. One platoon of Co "G" moved to Sontheim, while "H" Co, leaving one platoon to guard installations at Wiesensteig, which was outside the new Regimental sector, closed

in Altes Lager. This same date, "F" Co, minus the two platoons at Dornstadt, moved to Asch, and the following day, upon relief by two platoons of Co "B", these two platoons closed on the company.

Only move made in the 3rd Bn was made by Co "L" to Neuffen, closing at 1630 hours on May 15th.

Being relieved by elements of the 397th Infantry, Cn Co moved to Herrlingen and Blaubeuren, relieving AT Co in the latter by 1015 on the 16th. AT Co closed in Magolsheim at 1300 hours.

The occupation of the town of Herrlingen brought Cn Co to the home of a famous German General. The house of the "Desert Fox", General Erwin Rommel, was taken over by the company for a C.P.

It was reported by a visitor from the 36th Division, who had lived in Herrlingen from 1933 to 1938, that Rommel's house was formerly the home of a Jewish schoolmaster and the set of offices that the communication section was occupying nearby was a dormitory for the Jewish students, which they had built with their own hands. The visitor also reported that the railroad and highway running through the town were used by Hitler for the Blitz of Austria.

The Regimental sector was again changed on May 19th. The area the Regiment was to guard was increased considerably in size, now being approximately 45 kilometers in width and 70 in length. Redisposition of several units was necessary to absorb the increased area.

In preparation for relieving elements of Division Troops, "A" and "C" Cos of the 1st Bn moved to Goppingen, closing at 2000 hours on May 19th. The next day, the Bn CP and "D" Co also moved to Goppingen, closing at 0945, while Co "B" closed in Ubingen at 1030 hours.

2nd Bn, on the 19th, initiated movements of Cos to relieve elements of the 1st Bn in the old sector. "F" Co moved to Langenau, effecting the relief of security responsibility of Co "C" at 2030 hours. The balance of Co "H" closed at 2030 on its platoon in Weisensteig, now in the Regimental sector.

A platoon of "E" Co relieved "A" Co at 1900, with the remainder of the company closing into Lonsee at 1900 hours on May 20th.

Only one Co moved in the 3rd Bn. Co "M" moved to Altes Lager on May 19th, relieving Co "H" of guarding installations and maintaining security in the vicinity of Altes Lager and the military post.

The sector of AT Co was increased from approximately 80 to 100 square kilometers, bringing the town of Ernabeuren under its jurisdiction, while no change was made in Cn Co's area.

With respect to the guarding of installations, the changes of Regimental sector on May 15th and 19th brought several new installations to be guarded.

The guarding of two factories, one of which manufactures textiles, and a D.P. Camp of 8000, most of whom were Russians, were undertaken by the 1st Bn.

Within the 2nd Bn seven new targets were placed under its jurisdiction. A fifteen car train in Ober-Thalfingen, and American ammunition dump at (820900), and a precision instrument factory at Weisensteig were added to the guard list as well as an airplane parts factory in Laichingen, a textile factory in Sontheim and two pumping stations at (819900) and (817910).

A sox factory in Neuffen, a supply warehouse at (333823) and an ammunition dump at (343820) were the only ones taken over by the 3rd Bn.

Cn Co placed guards on a radio supply dump and a cement factory in Blaubeuren, while AT Co took security responsibility for three new targets. a water pumping station at Sonderbach,

a power distribution point and road check point at (3576), and a 24-car ammunition train at Hutten.

During this third week of may, the numbers and location of check points altered as the change of conditions and sectors warranted. Road patrols were maintained by all units and rerouted as the readjustment within old sectors and acquisition of new

zones of occupation required.

The athletic and entertainment program had developed into full swing by the beginning of this period, May 14th to 20th.

The 1st Bn enjoyed a full week of athletics, with intra-platoon, and intra-company games in softball and volleyball. Swimming was enjoyed by many and a survey showed that to be the most popular of all sports.

In the entertainment line, movies were held within the Bn on Monday, Tuesday, Saturday, and Sunday. On Thursday, May 18th, all companies were present at a show given by the Regimental Dance Band.

The 2nd Bn was very active in the athletic field. Many intra-platoon and intra-company games were played, both in volleyball and softball.

Movies were shown on Monday, Tuesday and Friday nights. About 500 men of the Bn attended the Russian show presented on Tuesday night, which was followed on Wednesday evening by an entertainment given by the Regimental Dance Band. Very popular entertainment was provided Saturday night when a combination beer and movie party was given.

During the entire week, all squads, platoons and companies of the 3rd Bn were actively engaged in athletics. Softball was by far the most popular sport, with twice as many men taking part in these games as in hardball and volleyball.

Three nights during the period movies were shown within the Bn and on Saturday night, May 19th, the Regimental Dance Band produced a show for Hq, "I", "K", and "L" Cos.

Within the Special Units Bn all companies took part in

athletics but because of the distances involved, all contests

were intra-company. Swimming as well as volleyball and softball were the main activities.

In the entertainment field, movies were shown a number of nights of the period by each company. On May 17th the Regimental Dance Band presented a show to about 175 members of the Bn.

The Regimental Volleyball Tournament semi-finals and finals were played on the 19th and 20th, respectively. The champions of the 1st Bn, Co "C", defeated "I" Co, the winning team of the 3rd Bn, in the semi-finals in two straight games. Regimental Hq of Special Units won over Hq Co, 2nd Bn champs.

In the finals, 1st Bn, represented by Co "C", was defeated by the Special Units champions, Regimental Hq Co.

The War Department film, "Two Down And One To Go" was shown to the Regiment during the period 16th to 17th May. 3rd Bn, AT and Cn Co held showings on the 16th, and 1st and 2nd Bn, Service Co, and Regimental Hq Co saw it on the 17th. On the 24th of May the film was again shown in several localities for the benefit of those who had missed the previous showings because of duties or being on pass. Of a total of 141 officers and 2867 enlisted men present for duty on that date, 129 officers and 2745 enlisted men had attended the showing of the film, or about 95% of the Regimental strength.

A total of 15 PWs were taken between May 14th and 20th to bring the Regimental total to 4122. Of the 15, 3 were caught by several I and R men after a fire fight.

Three I and R men reconnoitering a march route were told of 5 enemy in a hunting lodge 2 kilometers outside of Benningen. The men investigated, approaching the lodge in a cautious manner. With one of the men covering, the other two made their way up to the house. At this moment, two enemy officers and one enlisted man ran out the back door and made an effort to escape. One officer, carrying a machine pistol, was wounded, the others escaping.

The remaining men inside the lodge surrendered. One was a

Major Cluver, C.O., 113th Regt., 106th Division, who, with four other officers, was trying to get to the American lines to surrender. They had stopped to wash up en route, and the Major was found bathing. The Major's story was verified by a Lt. Steinbeck, Regimental S-4.

Training was continued during the fourth week, May 21st to 27th, as prescribed by the 100th Division O.I. No. 77, being conducted for personnel not involved on main guard of patrols. Emphasis continued to be placed on maintaining standards of military discipline and physical conditioning, through dismounted drill, two-hour marches and athletics. Regular formal inspections were held by each unit on Saturday.

Several minor moves were made during that weekly period. On the 21st, one platoon of Co "E", 2nd Bn, moved to Tomerdingen, and continued to guard an Army Transfer Point at (622899). Two squads of "B" Co, 1st Bn, were moved to Ebersbach on May 23rd to guard separate Russian men and women DP Camps. AT Co sent one squad to Ennabeuren on the 25th.

Several new targets were added to the list this fourth week of May.

A German ammunition dump and a shoe factory in Goppingen were brought under the jurisdiction of the 1st Bn. Three other targets were guarded by the 1st Bn: a Polish DP Camp in Uhingen, two Russian DP Camps in Ebersbach, one for men and one for women; and a factory at (402134).

3rd Bn was given security control over a number of new targets. In Kirchheim, guards were placed around a Russian barracks of 400 DPs, an electric power house, and a Technical Institute. A food warehouse was guarded in Egelstein.

Security posts and check points were altered in number and locations as the situations warranted. The patrolling of areas was continued by all units, and rerouting or other adjustment were made commensurate with changing conditions.

Of the total of 38 PWs taken during the period, bringing the Regimental tally to 4160, one was of particular note.

On May 24th, the CP of the 1st Bn was informed that a German General was living down the street only three houses away. An investigation was made, and Major Gen. Maximilian Kieffer was apprehended.

General Kieffer was interrogated by S-2 He is a man 54 years of age, and had been in the Luftwaffe, where, among other things he had headed an aviation school. Because of ill health, however, he had been discharged from the German Army on 31 March 1945.

Within our Regimental area there are a total of 16,129 Displaced Persons, as of May 25th. Virtually every nation in Europe is represented, except for the Scandinavian countries. The total is a composite of more than sixteen different nationalities.

The Russians make up the bulk of the DPs, totaling 13,062. The Polish are second with a count of 1,674. There are six other nationalities represented by over a hundred people, as follows: Italians, 256; Ukrainians, 202; French, 188; Belgians, 135; Yugoslavians, 119; and Czechoslovakians, 110. Dutch, Croats, Lithuanians, Latvians, Serbians, Rumanians, Spanish and Hungarian make up the other nationalities, numbering from 69 to 1. There are 193 of "Unknown" nationality in our area.

On Saturday evening, May 26th, the final performance of the Russian show No. 1 was given in Blaubeuren before an enthusiastic crowd of GI's from CN and Regimental Hq Cos. This performance closed a tour the group had made to every Bn in the Regimental area.

The show was composed of a group of professional entertainers from the DP camps in the area. Most outstanding of the many good performers of the show were the opera singers. Lougorsky, a baritone of the Odessa Opera, opened singing "D' Opera" from "Sigoyna" by Rachmaninoff. Olga Ochiovich, the understudy of the star sopranist of the Moscow Opera, sang most beautifully

the "Aria de Violette" from "Traviata". Both singers were called back repeatedly for encores by an enthusiastic audience.

On May 23rd, the Regimental members of the Division Softball leagues played two games. The Red League is made up of the 1st and 2nd Bns of our Regiment and corresponding teams from the 397th Regiment. The 3rd Bn and Special Units make up the White League, which also includes the 325th Med Bn and the 373rd, 374th, and 375th FA Bns.

In the Red League, 1st Bn played 2nd Bn and was defeated by a score of 8 to 0. 3rd Bn defeated Special Units by the score of 7 to 4 in the White League.

An inter-Regimental double-header game was played on Saturday, May 26th, by both leagues. In the Red, the 1st Bn of the 397th lost by the score of 7 to 5 to the 2nd Bn. of our Regiment. This was followed by a game between 4th Bn of the 397th playing the 1st Bn of our Regiment. The 397th won this game by the score of 9 to 4.

The 3rd Bn of our Regiment playing the 325th Med Bn opened the White League games. Our Regiment nosed out the "Medics" by the score of 4 to 3. A game between the 373rd FA Bn vs the 4th Bn of our Regiment was then played, collecting 4 points over the opponents 1.

Practically the entire personnel of the Regiment took part in some form of athletic play every day of this fourth week. Intra-platoon and intra-company volley ball and softball games were the most common. Horse-shoe pitching became very popular, with tennis being played where courts were available. Swimming remained a very popular sport where pools were available.

Movies were still number one on the entertainment list. In the Regiment, there were 28 shows given during the week, with

Russian Show No. 1 made 4 presentations during the week, playing to packed houses at the 2nd Bn on the 20th of May, 1st Bn on the 22nd May, 3rd Bn on the 24th May and to Special Units on the 26th. With the completion of these showings, practically the entire Regiment had seen the show.

The month of May closed with the weather still remaining warm and, for the most part, clear and dry. The last few days, May 28th to 31st, inclusive, foretold, however, that we might have a spring shower every afternoon for a while.

During this period, the training program was continued as before, retaining special emphasis on physical conditioning. The guards on targets were maintained with only one new installation being added to the list, a captured material collecting point in Goppingen. Road patrols, checking points and security posts were maintained as during the last period.

On May 28th, a PW, suspected of being a gestapo agent, was apprehended near Uhlingen by the actions of a Polish DP, an ex-officer. The Pole had recognized the German and, because of the German's cruelty to himself and his comrades on the same railroad labor gang, he was very anxious to have him caught. When the German was stopped by one of the 1st Bn's check points, the Pole reported him to the guards. The German not only presented a false pass, but was carrying a pistol.

The PWs taken for the period total 11, bringing the Regimental total to 4171.

The athletic program during this four day period was very full. There were many intra-platoon and intra-company softball and volleyball games played. Swimming was also a sport engaged in to the limits of the facilities.

A number of the Division Softball League games were played during this period. In the Red League, 3rd Bn of the 397th, was beaten out by the 2nd Bn by the score of 3 to 0 at Langenau. With both Regiments being represented by their 1st Bns, 397th Regiment, playing in Goppingen, beat the 399th with a score of 5 to 2.

In the White League, only one game was played. The 375th FA Bn, tallying 8 points, was beaten by our 3rd Bn, which scored 11.

Motion pictures were again the backbone of the entertainment program. In addition, Russian Show No. 2 played before a capacity audience at the 1st Bn on the 28th, and on Thursday,

The Regimental Dance Band put on shows on the 28th and 31st for the 3rd and 1st Bns, respectively.

Memorial Day, May 30th, was observed with appropriate services by each Bn. The 1st Bn held memorial church services in the morning, leaving the afternoon free for quiet relaxation, while

the 2nd Bn held similar services in the afternoon.

A parade in the morning was held by the 3rd Bn in observance of the day. Lt Colonel Bernard V. Lentz, Bn Commander, gave a short address, setting forth the reasons for the occasion. Memorial church services followed, with the afternoon being spent in quiet observance.

On the last day of May, a Provisional Training Company was organized out of 173 Reinforcements. The Company took over the military barracks at Altes Lager, which is ideally suited for a training course. Key officers and non-commissioned officers were selected from the Regiment to conduct the training.