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Authority **NND 735017**

By **JW** NARA Date **12-10-03**

*2-302*

**L-437**

358TH INFANTRY REGIMENT  
REGIMENTAL HISTORY  
JANUARY 1945

CLASSIFICATION  
**CANCELLED**  
BY AUTHORITY OF THE ADJUTANT GENERAL  
*Walter Thomas Major AGP*  
13 May 1946

Authority NND 735017  
 By JW NARA Date 12-10-03

4H INFANTRY - HISTORY -

1 January 1945

The New Year, which began clear, crisp and bright, found the 358th Infantry Regiment in a defensive position - capable, on a short notice, to launch a potent and well planned attack. The Plan - "Plan for reduction of Enemy Salient - between Saar and Moselle Rivers" - is attached. The General Plan follows:

012130 January 1945

GENERAL PLAN - 358TH INFANTRY

Atchmts: Co A 712 Tk Bn  
 Co B 81 Gnl Bn  
 1 Plat 773 TD Bn  
 2 Plat 315 Engr Bn  
 Co B 315 Med Bn

- a. Upon relief of 3rd Cav Sq during the nights (D-2 to D-1), move to fwd assy area vic BUSCHDORF, OBERTUNSDORF.
- b. Atk in column of Bns in order 1st, 2d, 3d at 0300 D-Day, drive rapidly fwd overrunning resistance, and secure Line A by dawn.
- c. Neutralize all pb's within A S of Line A by dawn.
- d. Be prepared to continue the atk to successive Objs indicated.
- e. Maintain contact with 3rd Cav Gp on R and 359th on the L.
- f. After seizure of final Obj within Z, be prepared to enter Z of 359th, upon relief in place by elms of 2d Cav Gp. (The detailed plans for Bns is atchd)

The Regimental CP was located in Remeling, France. The 1st Battalion (Res) and the 2nd Battalion CP's were in Launsdorf, and the 3rd Battalion CP was in Flatten.

At 1400 the 2nd Platoon, Co A jumped-off with a limited obj - the mission to destroy a pb in the vic of 146997 and capture prisoners. The Platoon encountered numerous AP mines, contacted the enemy and received s/a, MG and mortar fire. The mission was successfully completed at 1630, and the platoon had 4 PW's. Ten men of the Platoon were wounded and one man was killed.

The Regiment served the troops with a turkey dinner, which included all of the trimmings, and the complete dinner was brought to the men on outposts and OP's. Ribbons - Good Conduct, Pre-Pearl Harbor and ETO were presented to the troops by their Company Commanders throughout the Regiment. The ETO Ribbon included, at the most, three Stars, one for each of the following campaigns: Battle of Normandy; Liberation of France; and the Battle of Germany. The Stars were distributed according to the Battles the man participated in.

The Regiment continued its policy of aggressive patrols and set up three Ambush Parties to operate during the night. The existing patrols and OP's kept the Regimental Intelligence Officer, Major William J. Falvey, well informed concerning all activity to the Regimental front.

Throughout the day and night the enemy aircraft operated constantly over the whole sector, and because of frequent ineffective anti-aircraft fire, which dis closed troop positions, General Patten ordered that only anti-aircraft personnel fire on the enemy planes, unless other troops were directly fired upon.

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358 Infantry - History -

2 January 1945

Extensive patrolling by the I & R Patrol brought a report that no enemy was seen, heard or contacted. This report was indicative that the German troops were thinly stretched in this sector or withdrawing. PW's stated that many troops were being sent to their rear to a rest center, and through these PW's the location of the Rest Center was located - and TOT'ed.

Three Germans were contacted by the Ambush Party in the 3rd Bn Sector. Shots were exchanged and one prisoner was taken - two escaped. This enemy patrol had cut Co L's wire communication in twelve places.

Company K reported its OP had observed 6 German troops stretch a rope across the river SE of Dreisbach, where they were apparently attempting to build a landing stage. The 3rd immediately organized an Ambush Party to watch the spot.

The enemy line fronting the 358th was now a line generally (105013) to (125992) along S edge of woods to the river. The west portion held by KG Klinker - 91 men; E to the river by KG Werner - 97 men; Res of twenty (20) men in Orschultz. East of the Saar the 2nd Company 1410th Fortification Occupation Battalion, 150 men, had been identified.

The day was spent in improving defensive positions, reconnoitering for night patrols and rifle practice was held in Battalion areas. Company F relieved Company E on the line in their sector.

358th Infantry - History -

3 January 1945

At 0100 Company B dispatched a platoon with the mission of establishing an Ambush and taking prisoners. The patrol returned at 0600, but had not succeeded in contacting the enemy.

A 2nd Battalion patrol, from Company F, surprised 3 Germans and in the skirmish, killed them. The patrol then contacted a numerically superior enemy force, and after a sharp fire fight, was forced to withdraw. Campaign Shaw, of Company F, requested that he be given reinforcements, which would enable him to hold this line in the Battalion sector, as it was evident that many Germans were in the vicinity. This was further emphasized by the mortar shelling which an OP of Company E received at 2040.

A 3rd Battalion patrol to Schwenlingen returned at 0530 with a negative report. The 3rd Battalion Ambush party reached the point where the rope had been stretched across the river, and reported "no action", but the vicinity was still under observation.

The 2nd Battalion sent a strong Ambush patrol of 15 men to occupy the nose of hill at Fremersdorf (145992) at the E-W road along the nose. The patrol encountered many German troops well dug-in on the northern side. The enemy strongly resisted an further advance. The patrol discreetly withdrew without any casualties, but they inflicted casualties on the enemy by killing 3 Germans. The resistance encountered consisted of small arms fire. The patrol was later ordered to return and hold the ground it previously attempted to secure.

A 24 hour observation patrol to the vic of Orscholtz left at 1800. Two permanent Ambush patrols remained in the vic of Driesbach.

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358th Infantry - History -

4 January 1945

The 24 hour patrol to Orscholtz crossed an AT ditch at (100019), and then ran into a brisk fire fight with an unestimated number of German troops, who used small arms fire, ~~maching-gun~~ machine-gun fire and mortars. Further progress was impossible, and the patrol withdrew, returning at 0930.

A 2nd Battalion far outpost received a German attack during the morning. The offensive was preceded by a heavy mortar barrage. The enemy Infantry moved close behind it.. During the fight, one American was killed and his BAR stolen. The outpost position, however, was now known to the enemy, and throughout the day it received heavy artillery fire.

The 3rd Battalion reported that the rope, placed across the river by the enemy, was no longer there, nor was any trace of it to be found.

During the day, 2nd Battalion received heavy enemy shelling and, in some instances, long range MG fire from across the river.

Long range patrols were dispatched by the 1st and the 3rd Battalions. A Company G outpost was surprised by an enemy three man patrol, and one GI fired in haste, thus dispersing the enemy, who dashed back into the woods. All attempts to find them failed.

From Division, G-2 reported that a man, dressed as an American soldier, and driving a jeep, drove up to an entry (not in the 358 sector) and stated that the "Germans have over-run all TD positions". This is the type of tactics that were employed before the breakthrough up North. All enemy information indicated that the enemy was more likely to attack through the Moselle-Saar region at this time than it appeared 48 hours ago. All units were alerted concerning this information.

During the day several enemy aircraft circled the Battalion positions and at night many flares were reported over the entire sector.

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## 358th Infantry - History -

5 January 1945

Due to the recent reinforcements, the strength of the Battalions on the 5th of January were increased, and their status follows:

1st Battalion				2nd Battalion				3rd Battalion			
Hq	10	0	106 EM	Hq	8	0	100 EM	Hq	10	0	103 EM
A	3		167	E	3		169	I	4		171
B	4		184	F	3		168	K	5		176
C	4		180	G	4		162	L	5		157
D	6		134	H	4		128	M	5		115

During the night the 3rd Battalion placed a Battalion Concentration on enemy tanks observed by Company L's OP. The action was successful, and further movement was not observed. At 0445 an F Company patrol wounded and captured a 2 man enemy patrol in the vic of Nohn. At 0610 a Company F outpost placed artillery on two enemy troops which killed them.

One long range patrol advanced to (103015) and was halted by MG cross fire. It withdrew, with no casualties, and returned at 0100. Another long range patrol by-passed an enemy outpost at (008001) and located another at (087014). Further scouting, however, was halted at (091016) by two MG's and mortars.

A three man patrol from 2nd Battalion, Company E, penetrated the enemy line at Weiten and observed the day. They observed motor traffic between Weiten and Orschultz - 15 enemy troops in buildings (1304) - located a German artillery battery at 145044 and a mortar Just N of Orschultz. The patrol returned at 2200 without having had a shot fired at them.

M/Sgt Walter Meidner, Interrogation NCO, kept Major Falvey constantly informed of the statements made by the prisoners. This information aided greatly in the planning of the Regiments activities.

The Battalions continued to receive harassing enemy fire during the day and night. G-3 notified the Regiment not to send out any more patrols. Flares were again lighting the Battalions sectors, but other than the flares and an occasional burst of fire, the night passed without incident.

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358th Infantry - History -

6 January 1945

A long range patrol, after pushing through Driesbach, encountered two enemy patrols. These patrols were exceptionally alert and attempted to flank the Americans. Their attempt was unsuccessful, however. The patrol returned at 0300.

At 0730 Lt. Col. Bealke, Jr., Reg'l CO, attended a conference at Division Headquarters, and at 0845 he called a meeting of his Staff Officers. At the meeting, the forthcoming movement was outlined and the Staff received their orders.

Following the meeting, Capt. Stotler, Regimental Operations Officer, made the March Table (assy areas to Reg'l IP) and issued it at 2200 to all concerned. The Division Signal Officer notified the Regiment: "Radio silence will be effected for your unit upon leaving present area, and will remain in effect until further notice". All Unit Commanders were informed that all Division and Regimental markings would be obliterated. The Regiment now prepared for the Secret Move, and Capt. Stotler, Regimental S-3, and Capt Shipe, Ass't S-3, prepared the March Order.

The 1st Battalion was the first to be relieved as it was the Reserve Battalion. This Battalion entrucked at Launsdorf and detrucked in the vic of Koenigsmacher. The 3rd Battalion was relieved early in the morning and assembled to cross the IP on time. The 2nd Battalion, however, was late moving due to the tardiness of their relieving unit. They did, however, cross the IP at 1500 and were closed-in in their area in good time.

The 94th Division brought two old faces back into contact with the 358th Inf. Capt. Steinan, now a Battalion Hq CO, and Lt. Col. Durbin, now a Division G-3. The 301st relieved the 358 in the sector and their Staff, after discussions, were under-way and took over the sector with exact installations. They were, however, very late in closing-in as they had to use the route - Rhiems, Metz, Thionville to reach their new area.

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358th Infantry - History -

7 January 1945

At 0300 the March Order was issued to all concerned. The Order follows:

Hq 358th Inf.  
070300 Jan 45

## March Order:

1. a. CT 358 (less 344 FA Bn) will move by motor over route indicated on overlay to assya rea vic GROSBOUS, OPERN, NAGEM.  
b. Head of column will cross Reg'l IP at H-Hour 071200 Jan.  
c. For composition of March Order Serials, control and AA measures, see March Table issued previously.

2. Quartering parties from each unit will meet with Lt. Wm P. Flynn at Sv Co CP at Koenigsmacher at 0745. They will precede column to assya rea, departing at 0800 and prepare to meet column at Reichlange.

3. Units will be allotted assy areas tentatively as follows;

1st Bn - vic Grosbous  
2nd Bn - vic Hostert Les Foisghette  
3rd Bn - vic Nagem  
Sp Units Vic Ospem

It is anticipated that many units will occupy this area and that available buildings will be limited.

4. Kitchen trucks will report to Sv Co at Koenigsmacher at 1100. QM trucks will be released upon arrival at any area.

BEALKE  
Cmdg

STOTLER  
S-3

The relief of the Regiment by the 94th Division was completed without incident. The Regiment proceeded according to plan, and after a long drive of approximately 30 miles, came to rest at the designated areas. The snow covered roads, coupled with heavy traffic, made the move complicated, but the capable serial leaders untangled the difficulties and the move was successfully completed without accident. Over the icy roads, and through the cold, the Regiment moved and closed-in at 2100.

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358th Infantry - History -

103  
8 January 1945

The 1st Battalion moved by truck through blinding snow, from Platen, Luxembourg, to Arsdorf, a distance of 9 miles. The 2nd Battalion moved from Halstroff to Nagen, Luxembourg, where it remained for two days and nights. Because of the lack of space forward, the 3rd Battalion remained for the day and night in Lannen.

At the present time the enemy had no uncommitted Infantry or VG in the Division area. However, 4 Infantry Divisions, 3 Paratroop Divisions and one (1) Mtn Division was known to be available for use in the sector.

Prisoner statements disclosed that the enemy are using new, ingenious methods of avoiding capture, such as a small capsule, which, when dropped, exploded and emitted a poisonous gas that instantly killed the would-be capturer. The German escapes by holding his breath.

At 1600 the Regiment received the Division FO #48, which briefed, follows:

3. c. 358th Infantry  
Atchd: Co B 315 Med Bn.

- (1) Move by marching and organic motor from present location to assy area in vic Arsdorf - Rambrough, closing prior to 091400.
- (2) Be prepared to atk thru either assault Regts (357 - 359) to seize Division Obj.

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L4137

358th Infantry - History -

9 January 1945

In the bitter cold and heavy snow of a Luxembourg winter, the remainder of the 1st Battalion left Platon by truck and joined the advance elements at Arsdorf. The 2nd Battalion arrived and closed-in at Nagen, and waited for further orders. The 3rd Battalion moved by truck to Rambrouch, with the exception of Company M which was billeted in Arsdorf.

9 January 1945 found the Regimental CP at Arsdorf, Luxembourg. At Major William J. Falvey's (Reg'l S-2) request, MP's were instructed to check civilians in Arsdorf for proper papers.

The Regimental S-3 and S-2 kept close contact with the adjacent units and followed their progress carefully. During the evening the Regiment was in receipt of Division FM #12, which excerpt, follows:

4. 358th Infantry  
Atchmts - No change.

- a. Remain in present location.
- b. Recon route to fwd assy area in vic Bavigne - Mercher Dunkrodt.
- c. Be prepared to pass through either assault regts to continue atk to Division Obj.

The Regiment now made tentative plans to cover any emergency that might arise.

During the day, the Regiment learned with regret, that Col. Randolph, the 712th Tank Commander, had been killed by enemy artillery fire.

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## 358th Infantry - History -

10 January 1945

Division G-3 informed Captain Shipe, Ass't S-3, that there was nothing new for the 358th - only the previously ordered reconnaissance. The 357 and 359th Regiments reported they had taken 160 prisoners. They also stated that enemy artillery was very active in this sector. Crack German troops were reported fighting in the area, including daring 22-25 year old paratroopers. Major Falvey, S-2, made arrangements to shoot "Safe conduct passes" over the enemy lines on the 11th.

At 1830 Division issued FM #13. The section pertaining to the 358th Infantry follows:

4. 358th Inf.

Atchd: Co B 315 Med Bn

Atchd on Order: Co A 712 Tk Bn  
 Co B 773 TD Bn (less 1 Plat)  
 1 Plat Co B 315 Engr Bn.

A. Move by marching and shuttling 110730 from present location to assy area previously assigned. Be prepared for immediate displacement to fwd assy area indicated on overlay. Minimum essential transportation will be brought fwd.

b. On Div Order atk left (west) of 357th Inf and capture Bras and high ground to the E thereof, (obj 3). Protect left flank of the Division.

Following receipt of above FM, the Regiment issued it March Order at 1900, which follows:

1. 358th Inf will move by foot marching to assy area vic Bavigne commencing 110730. For route, assy areas, order of march, see atch overlay and march order.
2. Quartering parties from each unit will depart from present areas at 0713. They will rcn assigned areas (see atchd overlay) and be prepared to meet foot troops and organic transportation upon their arrival.
3. Kitchen trucks will move under Bn and Sep Co control so as to be in assy areas prepared to serve the troops a hot meal on their arrival.
4. Regl MP's will mark route from Arsdorf to Bavigne.
5. Regiment will have road priority over route from 0730 to 1530.
6. Foot troops will march in column of files on each side of road. Invl's 25 yards between plats, 50 yards between companies, 800 yards between 2nd and 3rd battalions.
7. One (1) Cmd and one (1) Med jeep will accompany Bn foot troops. Remainder will follow with organic transportation. Details and transportation necessary to prepare installations may accompany Quartering Party.

This order was distributed to all units concerned by liaison officers and the units immediately made preparations for the move.

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## 358th Infantry - History -

11 January 1945

At 0715 the 1st Battalion marched 8 miles thru snow and cold to an assy area on the outskirts of Bavigne. At 1400 it again moved, this time to the Forest, 2 miles north of Bavigne, near Berle. Its mission was to attack and seize the high ground south of the Division objective. However, the order was changed, and the attack was never launched. The battalion spent the night in the area.

The 2nd Battalion moved by foot from Nagen to Ramsdorf, Luxembourg, and spent two nights there. The 3rd Battalion moved by truck and by foot to its new assy area in the vic of Bavigne. Here the troops dug-in, and this was fortunate, because the area received enemy artillery during the night.

The Regimental CP was located in Bavigne. The Regiment learned from G-3 that the assault Regiments were making steady progress and had tanken many PW's. During the day some enemy harassing, but unobserved, artillery fire fell on the Battalion and Regimental sectors. All indications pointed to a hasty withdrawal, of the enemy.

Early in the evening Co F reported that its kitchen crew had captured a 6 man enemy patrol. It was also learned that German soldiers, in American uniforms and who spoke perfect English, were in the sector. All battalions were alerted and were on the look-out for them.

1815 Division issued its FM #14, the section pertaining to the 358th Infantry follows:

4. 358th Infantry

Atchd: Co A 712 TkBn  
Co B 773 TD Bn  
1 Plat Co B 315 Engr Bn.  
Co B 315 Med Bn.

- a. Atk within Z at 120820A and seize Obj 3.
- b. Patrol to railroad.
- c. Gain and maintain contact with 6 AD and 35th Inf Div on L (West)

And at 2100 Capt. Stotler, Regl S-3, issued FM #3 to the Battalions and units concerned, which follows:

Hq 358th Inf.  
112100 Jan1945

## FM #3

1. a. 90th Inf Div rein, cont atk 11 Jan to consolidate Div Obj.  
b. 359th Inf maintains present positions and protects R flank of Div.  
c. 357th Inf continues night 11-12 Jan to seize Sonlez and obj 2. After seizure of obj 2, cut road SE from Bras and asst attack of 358.

2. 358th Inf.a. 1st Bn:

- (1) Move from present area at 0730 along route indicated to seize obj indicated.
- (2) Secure Div L flank (w) dropping off security outposts as indicated.
- (3) Contact elms of 35th Inf Div and TF Scott on L (w)

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358th Infantry - History -

11 January 1945 (cont)

- b. 2nd Bn  
(1) Initiate movement from present area at 0800, moving along the route indicated to seize and secure assigned portion of obj.  
(2) Patrol to railroad N of obj.  
(3) Gain and maintain contact with 6 AD on L (west)
- c. 3rd Bn  
(1) Initiate movement from present area at 0800, following 2nd bn along route indicated to seize and secure assigned portion of obj.  
(2) Gain and maintain contact with 2nd Bn on L (w)  
(3) Patrol to railroad N of obj.
3. Atchmts - No change (344th FA in direct support)
4. Other units continue assigned missions.

BEALKE  
CMDG

Official:

STOTLER  
Capt, S-3

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 By JW NARA Date 12-10-07

358th Infantry - History -

12 January 1945

Since D plus 2, the 358th Infantry captured 8,624 EM and 164 German Officers. This figure does not include wounded prisoners who were evacuated through medical channels.

At 0800 the 1st Battalion jumped-off, with Companies A and C the assault companies. Company B remained in Battalion Reserve. By 0900 Co A contacted Company K of the 357, and at 0950 Company A had 16 prisoners.

The 2nd Battalion also jumped-off and by 0950 was engaged in a hot fight in the town of Sonlez. By 1300 Lt. Col. Loomis, CO 2nd Battalion, reported that the enemy was giving up in small groups. The 1st Battalion confirmed this and added their prisoner count was now 29.

By 1750 Company I was just 200 yards S of pt 35. One tank opened fire on Company C and three tanks hit the 2nd Battalion, and halted its advance. At 1815 hard fighting was still in progress in Bras. Only a portion of the town was in 358 control. By 1830 the 3rd Bn was in contact with the 357th Inf. The 3rd Bn was ordered to send its armor to Company E and lend support and ease the pressure. At this time the 6 AD was 12-14 hundred yards NW of Bras, and some enemy tanks were in Bras. The 2nd Battalion reported at 1845 that it was not tied-in with the 3rd Battalion and had seen nothing of the 6 AD. Its casualties numbered 8.

At 1843 Lt. Col. Bealke, Jr., Reg'l CO, notified the 2nd and 3rd Battalions to be prepared to make a night attack - 2nd Battalion and 3rd Battalions abreast - the 3rd Battalion to Flank Bras. The time set for the attack was 0400.

The 3rd Battalion at 1900 - Company I from pt 86 to woods; company K near their left rear in buildings; - Company L to rear of Company I. Company I right flank in contact with 357.

The Regimental Forward CP was not located in Sonlez - rear CP in Bavigne.

At 2000 hours the 2nd Battalion, with Company G on R, Company F on L, were south of the road. Company E was to the L rear of Company E.

The CP, which was receiving considerable fire, located the tank responsible for it 300 yards N of Doncols. The Regiment learned that "Satyre Charlie", the 4.2 mortar previously with the 357th Inf, was now attached to it. Elements of the 130th, 134th, and 320th were now in contact with the 358th. By 2230 Company E 357th, was on the right of Company I, 358th Inf.

At 2100 hours, Division issued FO #49, which in part, follows:

3. c. 358th Infantry

atcd: Co A 712 Tk Bn  
 Co C 3d Cml Bn  
 1 Plat Co B, 315 Engr Bn  
 Co B 315 Med Bn

- (1) Continue atk to secure obj 3 prior to daylight 13 Jan
- (2) Patrol aggressively within Z to RR.
- (3) Be prepared to continue atk to Obj 4, making main effort on L.
- (4) Maintain contact with 90th Rcn on L.

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358th Infantry - History -

13 January 1945

The 2nd Battalion jumped-off at 0500, but one platoon was so badly hit by tanks that the advance was halted. Only 12 men remained in the platoon. The 3rd Battalion, likewise, was unable to move. The two Battalion Commanders planned an advance and arranged for a tie-in point. They agreed to jump-off at 0700.

At 0700 the Battalions jumped-off. The 3rd Battalion by-passed German held houses and planned to have Company K clean them up later. 2nd Battalion's F and G Companies pushed through the town and left Company E to hold it. By 0855, 2nd Bn, now across the road, received direct fire from N and artillery and mortar fire from the east. Company I, also across the road, contacted the enemy and was in the midst of a hot fight.

Lt. Col. Bealke, Regimental Commander, called for artillery fire on the enemy artillery that was bombarding the 2nd Battalion.

The wrecked enemy vehicles on the roads about Sonlez were impeding traffic, so Lt. Col. Schultz, Regimental Ex. Officer, notified the Engineers and ordered a platoon to clear them away.

At 0920 the 2nd Battalion was still attempting to locate the enemy tanks firing on them, and at 0932, the artillery observation plane went aloft. At 1000 the Regimental CO alerted the 1st Battalion.

The 2nd and 3rd Battalions received constant shelling and tank fire. Despite the enemy fire, the troops slowly advanced, inflicting heavy casualties and damage on the enemy. Tanks, TD's and AT crews blazed at the Germans. By 1300 two American tanks were KO'd but no casualties resulted.

Corps artillery lent its mighty support by blasting 4 enemy artillery batteries, which were NE of the Regimental sector. After suffering much hard fighting and casualties, the 3rd Battalion was on its objective at 1400. The Battalion was still receiving heavy fire, and it now identified a concentration of tanks to their front. Captain Ross, artillery observer, directed fire on the tanks. At the present time, the 3rd Battalion prisoner count was 70. Its casualties 30-40.

Enemy armor was massing along the entire front and a counter-offensive seemed eminent. All units were alerted to this fact. The artillery poured heavy barrages on known positions - some fire unobserved. Targets were picked for the artillery night shoot. Later, due to ammunition allotments, some of the targets were eliminated. AT contacted the 6 AD rcn at 1830.

The 2nd Battalion reported 32 evacuated, 4 RTD and 10 KIA. 1st Bn reported 10 evacuations. Most evacuations were Trench Foot and Flu.

By 2000 hours the Battalions were tied in for the night. The 1st Bn also had a platoon of tanks attached to it now.

At 2300, a 2nd Battalion Platoon, under 1st Lt. Riddlehuber, raided an enemy held house and took 3 prisoners. The total for the regiment today was now 122.

The casualties for the day were: 1 Officer and 14 EM KIA; 2 Officers and 70 EM WIA; and 1 Officer and 19 EM sick.

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**SECRET**

HQ 358TH INF  
 131500 JAN 45

FIELD MESSAGE : # 4

TO : All Units Concerned.

1. 90th Inf Div -

- a. Continues atk with 2 Regts abreast, 358th Inf L (West) 357th Inf on R, (East) to seize successive Objs (See Overlay).
- b. Maintain contact with 26th Inf Div (Right) and 6th Armad Div (Left).
- c. Prepares for further adv to NE.

2. 358th Inf

Atchmts: Co A 712th Tk Bn  
 Co C 3rd Gnl Bn  
 Co B 315th Engr Bn (1 Plat)  
 Co B 315th Med Bn

- a. Continues atk to secure Obj 3, 13 Jan 45, with 2 bns in assault, 3rd Bn on R (East), 2nd Bn on L (West).
- b. Be prepared to continue atk to Obj 4 making main effort in left Z.
- c. Maintain contact with 90th Rcn Tp on L.

3. a. 1st Bn

Atchmts: No Change.

- (1) Remain present pos.
- (2) Maintain contact 134th Inf until these elms are relieved.
- (3) Be prepared to pass through the Z of either assault bn to secure Obj indicated.
- (4) Be prepared to pass to L of 2nd Bn as main effort to secure Obj 4.
- (5) Be prepared to repel counter-atk within Regt's Z.

b. 2nd Bn

- (1) Continue atk to secure Obj 3 prior to darkness 13 Jan.
- (2) Patrol aggressively within Z to RR.
- (3) Be prepared to continue atk to Obj 4 as part of main effort.
- (4) Maintain contact with 90th Rcn Tp on L.

c. 3rd Bn

- (1) Continue atk to secure Obj 3 prior to darkness 13 Jan.
- (2) Patrol aggressively within Z to RR.
- (3) Be prepared to continue atk to Obj 4.

d. Other Units - No Change in mission.

## 4. Issued Separately.

## 5. a. SOI Index 01-35

## b. GPs

Ax Sig Com - (See Overlay).

Official:

*Stotler*

STOTLER

Capt., S-3

BEALKE  
Comdg**SECRET**

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358th Infantry - History -

14 January 1945

At 0400 the 2nd and 3rd Battalion patrols made contact. The 2nd Battalion joined the 3rd Battalion on the high ground north of Bras. The enemy attempted counter-thrusts and were repulsed. Major Falvey, Reg'l S-2, instructed the artillery to shoot propaganda shells containing the "Safe Conduct Passes."

Strong Combat Patrols were organized and sent to scout the forward areas. The enemy was contacted in many areas and numerous fire-fights ensued. Battalions still took prisoners. The observation plane spotted enemy concentrations and the artillery blasted them. The 3rd Battalion reported it had the following enemy equipment: 1 75 SP (halftrack); 1 105; 1 88; 1 75; 2 AT towed rocket launchers; 1 1½ T trk; 2 halftracks; 5 wagons.

At 1230 the 6 AD reported their positions, and at 1310 they had engaged armor at (628595). Company G OP had spotted this armor earlier, but was unable to identify it at the time.

At approximately 1400, planes, identified as friendly, bombed the 358 troops and strafed the CP's. Contact was made with the Air Corps and the situation was explained. One bomb was dropped on Company I while it was attacking and their advance was temporarily halted. The Company jumped-off again at 1410 and the 2nd Battalion jumped-off at 1445. At 1510, after the bombing episode, the 3rd Battalion reported it was again attacking. 1st Battalion was ordered to move to the rear of the 3rd Battalion, and was instructed not to make a night attack - but would be prepared to attack at 0800 15 January.

At 1800 the 6th AD halted for the day, and was prepared to move on a new objective in the morning.

The assault Battalions received everything the Germans could throw at them, from small arms to tanks, but they made steady progress. The woods, the high ground, and the RR tracks were doggedly defended by the enemy, and with the withdrawal of the Germans from these positions, the enemy artillery and tanks shelled the troops entering and occupying them. Contact between flank units became more and more difficult. The 2nd Battalion received 15 casualties at the tracks, and lost a TD and a tank, complete with its crew.

The artillery cub plane assisted several times in reporting Company and Battalion positions. At 2000 hours, the objective was gained and secured. The positions were still, however, being harassed by enemy artillery. The process of tie-ing in was under way, and at 2340, all units were in contact.

The Regiment, from orders contained in Division FM #15, issued its FM #5, at 2200, which follows:

Hq 358th Inf.  
142200 Jan 45

Field Message No. 5

1. 358th Inf.

Atchd: Co A 712 Tk Bn  
Co C 3rd Cml Bn  
Co B 315 Engr Bn (1 Plat)  
Co B 315 Med Bn.

Continues atk to secure objs previously indicated at 150800 with 2 Bns in assault, 3rd Bn on R (E) 2nd Bn on L (W).

Authority NND 735017  
By JW NARA Date 12-10-03

358th Infantry - History -

14 January 1945 (c mt)

2. a. 1st Bn  
Atchd: No Change.  
(1) Close in fwd assy area indicated by 150730.  
(2) Be prepared to pass through zone of 3rd Bn along right (E) bdry to seize objs A and B.  
(3) Prepared to pass thru zone of other assault Bns to seize objs indicated.  
(4) Prepare to repel counter atk from N, NE within Regl zone.
- b. 2nd Bn  
Atchd: No change.  
(1) Atk at 150800 along approach indicated to seize and secure obj C  
(2) Gain and maintain contact with 3rd Bn on R and 90 Rcn Tr on L  
(3) Be prepared to continue atk to Obj D and F on Regl Order.
- c. 3rd Bn  
Atchd: No change.  
(1) Atk at 050800 making main effort on R to seize obj A  
(2) Continue atk to seize and secure obj B  
(3) Maintain contact with 2d Bn on L, 357 on R.  
(4) Be prepared to continue atk to obj E on Regl Order.

Other units: No change in mission.

BEALKE  
Cmdg

Official:

STOTLER  
Capt. S-3

Authority **NND 735017**By **JW** NARA Date **12-10-03**

356th Infantry - History -

12 January 1945

The 2nd and 3rd Battalions jumped-off to continue the attack, the 3rd Battalion at 0830, with Co I on the L and Co K on the R. The Battalion encountered the enemy at 0900 and hard fighting ensued. The right flank was exposed, due to the 357's by-passing during the night. The Battalion CO, Lt. Col. Spivey, used artillery and mortar fire to its fullest advantage, however, and the attackers slowly pushed the defenders rearward. Captain Shortridge, Co K was wounded and evacuated during the morning. The enemy employed SP guns, and these guns inflicted heavy casualties. Cooks, drivers and miscellaneous personnel were drafted into aiding the medical staff evacuate the wounded. Radio communication was established and maintained between the Battalion Commanders. The 357th Infantry received orders to move in on the right flank and tackle the pocket of Germans who were harassing the 3rd Battalion.

By noon the 2nd Battalion was on the high ground N of the RR tracks and one company astride the tracks. Lt. Col. Loomis, 2nd Bn CO made plans to push forward to DeChiempach, with the 3rd Battalion protecting its R flank. At this time, Co. I troops were withdrawn to contact 2nd Battalion and reorganize.

During the morning the 1st Battalion moved to a forward assembly area and contacted Germans who had been pocketed. Co. A engaged them, and during the fire-fight suffered 5 casualties. At 1200 the Battalion received orders to move to Benonchamps and make preparations for an attack on the town of Neiderwampach.

At 1400 the 2nd Battalion was on the high ground N of the RR, the 1st and 3rd Battalions in the vic of Benonchamps, and all were ready for the jump-off. At 1415 the Regiment, with the 1st Battalion committed, jumped-off. In the 3rd Battalion sector the situation became critical, due to the Germans launching a counter-attack at same time as the Battalion jump-off. Stiff fighting and strong resistance now followed. The enemy was repulsed, but the Battalion received heavy fire from the RR tunnels in its area. Heavy artillery was brought to bear on the tunnels, and when their resistance ceased, the Battalion again pushed forward to its objective.

The 1st Battalion, with Co's A and B as assault companies and Co C in Reserve, jumped-off at 1545 and began its swift and sudden attack, from the NW on the town of Neiderwampach. As the Battalion approached the town, a cub plane reported heavy enemy concentrations there. The Battalion halted while the artillery placed 14 Bns of artillery TOT fire on the town. When this terrific barrage was lifted, Major Nichols' Battalion moved in swiftly, shouting and shooting, and took the town just at dark, netting 300 prisoners who were still dazed from the TOT. An enemy tank, which displayed a desire to fight, fired upon the attackers, but was promptly KO'd, crew et al.

The Regiment now consolidated its gains and dug-in for the night. The Company and Battalion positions were duly reported. At 1710 Major William Wallace assumed command of the 2nd Battalion, replacing Lt. Col. Frederick H. Loomis, who was evacuated.

Lt. Col. Bealke, Regimental Commander, now planned to drive the enemy from the RR tunnels by firing tanks and TD's into the openings. The Division G-3 indorsed the idea.

Authority NND 735017By JW NARA Date 12-10-03

358th Infantry - History -

15 January 1945 (cont)

At 2330 the Regiment received Division FM #12, and from it, issued its FM #6, which follows:

Hq 358th Inf.  
152200 Jan 45

Field Message # 6:

1. a. 359th Inf will atk 16 Jan 45 to secure Obj 6 ( high ground E Longvilly)
- b. 357th Inf will exert pressure and patrol woods to N NE within Z.
2. 358th Inf  
   Atchmts: No change.
  - a. 1st Bn.
    - (1) Consolidate present pos Niederwampach.
    - (2) Prepare to seize obj indicated when elms 359 come abreast.
    - (3) Gain and maintain contact elms 2nd Bn on R (S).
  - b. 2nd Bn
    - (1) Seize Obj indicated with Co F during night 15-16 Jan.
    - (2) Upon relief prior to daylight of remainder Bn by elms 3rd Bn, assemble in area indicated.
    - (3) Move remainder Bn along route indicated to capture high ground SE Neiderwampach overlooking RR tunnels.
    - (4) Be prepared to seize RR tunnels on Regimental order.
  - c. 3rd Bn
    - (1) Relieve elms 2nd Bn along line indicated prior to daylight Jan 16.
    - (2) Patrol actively to N, NE.
    - (3) Maintain contact with 357th on right.
    - (4) Be prepared to move fwd to contact elms 2nd Bn on Regl order.
3. One Plat Co A 712 TK Bn:
  - a. Is relieved from atchmt 3rd Bn and atchd 1st Bn effective 160700 Jan.
  - b. Other Units - no change in mission.

BEALKE  
Cmdg

Official:

STOTLER  
Capt., S-3

Authority NND 735017By JW NARA Date 12-10-07

## 358th Infantry - History -

16 January 1945

During the night and early morning the 3rd Bn assumed the holding mission of the entire Regiment. The 2nd Bn assembled in the vic of Bras, and the 1st Bn was in Neiderwampach.

During the morning the 1st Bn continued to clear Neiderwampach and this operation netted 60 more prisoners. Early in the morning Co F pushed around the Division left and occupied the nose at (635585).

The 3rd Bn initiated patrols to its front. Co's I and L patrols advanced 500 yards to the front and reported no trace of the enemy. At 1000 they were again dispatched this time to the RR tracks. Company I patrol to proceed N of the tracks and tie-in with 2nd Bn on Obj A. The Company L patrol contacted the enemy at 1100 in the open draw and drew MG and burp-gun fire.

At 1300 the 3rd Bn, 357th Infantry was attached to the 358th Infantry, and took over the entire line of the Regiment. The 2nd Bn, 358, now moved to Neiderwampach. At 1500 the 2nd Bn launched an attack toward the RR tracks. At the same time Company A assaulted Shimpach and Co's B and C moved against Oberwampach. 3rd Bn pushed NE toward the RR tracks.

The Regiment encountered a determined enemy resistance in all sectors, from tunnels, dug-in position, fortified houses and roaming armor the troops received all types of fire. Repeated counter-thrusts were received and repulsed.

At approximately 1630 the 2nd Bn was on its objective, with 40 prisoners. The Bn had been hard hit by an artillery shoot of our own that fell short.

During the afternoon the air corps bombed Oberwampach and various enemy concentrations. The artillery was kept busy by Bn CO's firing "on call" targets.

A hot fight for Shimpach was in process at 1630, and Major Wallace, 2nd Bn CO, now reported his prisoner count at 60. At 1715 the 2nd Bn had Shimpach and Hill B-33.

At 2000 a large formation of tanks were observed approaching (660589). Because of their excellent communications, 1st Bn worked with the artillery to direct fire on them and they were quickly dispersed and driven off.

Company A was relieved by Company F and returned to Neiderwampach as Bn Reserve. 7 belts of hasty mine fields were removed by the 1st Bn A&P Platoon, thus allowing the tanks and TD's to enter the town and get into position.

A German half-track with 11 SS troops entered Neiderwampach and were quickly taken prisoner. They had driven past the outer guards, entered town, left their vehicle guarded by one man, and entered a building. The guard was surprised and taken, and the troops then entered the building and bagged the remaining 10.

By dark all units were on their objectives. Shortly after dark, the 1st Bn had cleared their towns, the 3rd Bn had cleared a tunnel which yielded 10 prisoners, and all Bns were tied-in in a strong line facing E. Shortly before midnight Company C was attacked by 2 enemy tanks with Infantry, but they were quickly repulsed. (see attached story)

Authority NND 735017By JW NARA Date 12-10-07STORY (cont)

And so the day began with threats from three directions and with the artillery pounding the enemy at his every move. Around 1300 in the afternoon, the enemy increased his desperate efforts to retake the town - throwing more tanks and more Infantry into the attack - and hitting the town from all four directions. Lt. Col. Jacob W. Bealle, Jr, the Regimental Commander, ordered a ring of artillery placed around the town. Meanwhile, the Infantry kept the tanks buttoned up and the troops from closing in on the town - while forward observers placed tremendous quantities of artillery on every kind of enemy movement.

Great cred in repelling the counterattacks during the day went to the supporting tanks and TD's. The skillful cooperation between the Infantry and the armor and the close coordination with the Division artillery was the mainstay in the defense of the town. One outstanding example of excellent coordination between the armor and the Infantry was when First Lieutenant William D. Fablinger, of Company B, crawling to an OP at the most forward part of the position to the northeast, spotted approaching targets for the supporting tanks. From his vantage point, he could spot the tanks long before they came within range of the anti-tank weapons. As they approached, he called for a tank from 2nd Lt. Jule H. Braetz. Just as the target silhouetted itself against the snow, the tank pulled up to firing position, fired, and withdrew. In this manner, the tanks of Lt. Braetz's platoon knocked out five tanks without suffering a single loss. As the crews bailed out of the knocked-out tanks, the artillery came down on them with time fire. And as the battered enemy withdrew up the draw, the artillery stalked them all the way with time fire and TOT's.

At the height of the counterattack, Lt. Leon M. Woods, platoon leader of the TD's, determined to get his MIO's into action against the oncoming tanks, brought two of his TD's to a position at the extreme southeastern edge of the town where - despite the direct fire from enemy assault guns - they succeeded in knocking out five enemy tanks before enemy fire hit one TD and forced the crew to destroy and abandon the other.

During the battle, most of the casualties suffered by the defenders occurred when a platoon of Company C came under the direct fire of the enemy tanks. Several in the platoon, including the platoon leader, 2nd Lt. Theodore C Schroeder, received wounds from this fire. However, the platoon was withdrawn on order of the Company Commander, Captain Arnold L. Brown, before it was completely cut-off.

At 1500, when the enemy temporarily eased his efforts to retake the village, the Battalion had lost 14 wounded and three killed - while the ground was literally strewn with enemy dead and equipment. Enemy losses were estimated to be extremely heavy with at least 10 tanks knocked out and one half-track set afire, not to mention the undetermined number knocked out by artillery.

During the brief respite, the wounded were evacuated and the Companies reorganized. During the period also, a medic named Edward L Madden, walked boldly up the road, straight into a house on the extreme southeastern edge of town occupied by the Germans, in order to evacuate a wounded American soldier. At first, the enemy refused to release him - but during the night, the brave medic managed to slip away and return to his unit.

At midnight on the 17th, events happened rapidly again. First two red flares were observed to the east of the town. After a pause of five minutes another lone red flare appeared. Immediately following the lone flare, the enemy launched another furious counterattack with tanks and Infantry from the east, southeast, and northeast. This attack had so soon begun and dispersed with artillery and mortar fire when more tanks and Infantry were heard approaching from the northern route to the town. As much as eight battalions of artillery were placed on the enemy force attacking from this direction, lasting from ten to twelve minutes. And as the counterattack broke up, time

Authority **NND 735017**  
 By **JW** NARA Date **12-10-03**

### STORY (cont)

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## STORY (cont)

fire followed the enemy along his route of withdrawal. Renewed attempts by the enemy in their fanatic efforts to retake the village continued throughout the night and into the morning - each attack being successfully repelled by determined defenders and through the coordinated efforts of the Infantry and the supporting artillery and armor.

For two days and three nights, successively, the counterattacks continued in all their fury against the First Battalion, 358th Infantry. The successful defence of the town - despite the desperate efforts of the enemy - was due to the outstanding courage and tenacity of the determined American troops holding the town. The Battalion CO, Major Arthur N. Nichols, Jr. and the S-3, 1st Lt. James D. Aughtry, remained at all times in complete contact with the situation with excellent communications. His CP was a mass of telephones and radios - with his artillery liaison officer and his heavy weapons and mortar officers at his elbow to assist with additional wire and radio contact. The Heavy Weapons Company, commanded by Capt. Larry G. Wright, established a fire direction center in the CP - for the regular 81mm mortars and for the captured 120mm mortars put into action by 1st Lt. Phillip E O'Donnell, the mortar Platoon leader. Company wire teams worked in conjunction with the battalion wire teams, repairing wire lines in the minimum amount of time.

More than 5800 rounds of artillery was fired in one 24-hour period and an tremendous amount of mortar ammunition was expended in preventing the enemy from gaining the ground he was determined to get. And despite the all-out efforts of the enemy in this sector, at no time was any ground lost by the 1st Battalion in staving off the repeated attacks. The night of the 18th was a repetition of the previous night - and early morning of the 19th found the enemy still launching repeated counterattacks. So, the Battle of Oberwampach on the Belgium border continues - and so it will long be remembered by the men of the 1st Battalion, 358th Infantry, as the battle in which fanatic SS troopers and the famed Panzer troops were flung back repeatedly, amidst extremely heavy losses, by determined American doughboys and their supporting artillery.

17 January: Coordinates: Oberwampach 657591  
 Neiderwampach 644586  
 Casualties : 11  
 18 January: Coordinates: Same  
 Casualties : 6  
 19 January: Coordinates: 644586  
 Casualties : None

Authority **NND 735017**  
By **JW** NARA Date **12-10-07**

358th Infantry - History -

17 January 1945

Through the night the 2nd Bn received heavy mortar and artillery fire. At 0330 the 1st Bn received a terrific counter-offensive by 7 enemy tanks and a Bn of Infantry. They entered Oberwampach shooting and shouting. This attack was quickly repelled, and 22 enemy were killed and 3 captured. This thrust was but a prelude to 36 hours of repeated and constant attacks on this vital town from all directions. Two Air Corps Officers, who had been on an observation mission of foot troops, came to the CP after these attacks and counterattacks, muttering "We've seen enough. Everyone was running all over the place, but they knew what they were doing". They also added that it was safer in a plane during flak than it was out there. In other words, two more people had been converted to the fact that being a doughboy was a tough job. (see STORY atchd to 16 Jan).

During the morning the 1st and 2nd Bns patrolled to the high ground to the SE (Obj 5) and found an entrenched enemy. Both the 3rd Bns mopped-up to the E. 3rd Bn 357 cleared to the RR tracks and 3rd Bn 358 had Company L up to the tracks. Company K advanced, but under direct enemy observation, received mortar and artillery fire. At 1030 enemy Infantry and tanks again moved on Oberwampach from the NE and were dispersed with artillery and Infantry fire with heavy casualties to the enemy. By noon all three RR tunnels were reported cleared. A Regimental forward CP opened in Benonchamps.

The 3rd Battalion was relieved by 3rd Bn 357th Infantry, and assembled in the woods in the vic of (642573), as Regimental Reserve.

From all indications, it was believed that the American Troops had reached the enemy's ML R and that the enemy was strengthening their excellent defensive terrain.

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By **JW** NARA Date **12-10-03**

358th Infantry - History -

18 January 1945

The Germans continued to strengthen their positions, but due to poor visibility, little movement was noted during the day. Throughout the day heavy artillery and mortar continued to fall on Oberwampach and Neidewampach. The Regiment retaliated with heavy counter-battery fire. The Battalions pursued the policy of aggressive patrolling.

3rd Battalion, in Reserve, received tents for the troops. This Battalion reported 191 casualties (of all types) from 1 Jan to 17 Jan. The 2nd Battalion was notified that on the 19th it would be relieved by the 3rd Battalion. Company E was pulled from the line because of its considerable understrength.

During the early morning 1st Battalion received four counter-attacks, but aided by the TD's and artillery quickly dispersed these actions (see story atchd to 16 Jan). However, as a precautionary measure, the Regimental Commander alerted the 3rd Battalion.

By 2300 arrangements were made to have the 2nd Battalion, when relieved, to be trucked to the Rest Camp, after assembly in vic of Wardin. At midnight the 1st Battalion, after a day of considerable fighting to repel counter-offensives by enemy Infantry and tanks, reported that everything was now under control.

358th Infantry - History -

19 January 1945

During this period the 358th Infantry, in the center of the Division Zone, continued to receive the bulk of enemy fire and activity. A sharp decrease, however, was noted in the incoming artillery and mortars.

In the early morning, considerable enemy activity occurred in the vic of the KO'd German tanks. It was apparent there was an effort being made to remove or salvage them. Artillery fire was placed on them and all activity ceased.

Vigorous patrolling made apparent that the high ground to the E was either lightly held or had been completely evacuated. Long enemy columns were observed going N, and arty was immediately placed on them. In some cases the Air requested the artillery to "Cease fire", and let them have a crack at the columns.

The 3rd Battalion completed the relief of the 2nd Battalion and at 2330 the 2nd Battalion arrived at Haby-la-Neuve, Belgium. The 3d Battalions new CP was located in Neiderwampach.

358th Infantry - History -

20 January 1945

Enemy artillery fire increased during the early morning, decreased during the day, and increased again during the late afternoon.

In the morning Co A jumped-off to attack and secure the high ground east of Oberwampach. In record time they seized their objective, and then encountered stiff fighting. During the ensuing battle, one platoon, and half of another, was cut off. Because their exact position could not be definitely ascertained, no hold could be rendered. Consequently, with a few exceptions, they were either killed or captured. The Company withdrew to Oberwampach and remained there, in defensive position, for the night.

The 3rd Battalion pushed combat patrols, but contacted no enemy. The Battalion received constant enemy shelling, however, during the day.

The 2nd Battalion was still in the Rest Camp.

At 2100 Capt. Stotler, S-3, issued FM #8, which ordered the Regiment to attack at 0600 and seize Derenbach, and the order follows:

Hq 358th Inf  
202100 Jan 45

Field message #8:

1. a. XIX Corps continues atk 210830A in the direction of St Vith with 6th Armd Div on L (N), 90th Div center, 26th Inf Div R (S).
  - b. 90th Div atks at 210830A with 358th Inf on R (S), 359th Inf on L, (N).
2. 358th Inf.

Atchd: Co A 712 Tk Bn	Support: Co A 773 TD Bn
Co B 315 Med Bn	344 FA Bn

  - a. Atks within Z (see overlay) at 210600 to seize initial obj prior to daylight.
  - b. Continues atk at daylight to seize Derenbach and high ground to E.
3. a. 1st Bn

Atchd: 1 Plat Co A 712 Tk Bn	
------------------------------	--

  - (1) Atk within Z at 220600 to seize initial obj (see overlay) prior to daylight.
  - (2) Continue atk to seize Bn Obj on Regl Order.
  - (3) Gain and maintain contact with 359th Inf on L and 3rd Bn on R.
  - (4) Be prepared to continue atk to NE.
  - b. 3rd Bn

Atchd: 1 Plat Co A 712 Tk Bn	
------------------------------	--

    - (1) Atk within Z at 210600A seizing initial obj (see overlay) prior to daylight.
    - (2) Continue atk on Regl order to seize Bn obj.
    - (3) Gain and maintain contact with 328th Inf on R (S) and 1st Bn on L (N).
    - (4) Be prepared to continue atk to NE.
  - c. Co A 773 TD Bn
    - (1) From pos on high ground SE Oberwampach support adv of Regt, providing AT Defense within Z.

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358th Infantry - History -

20 January (cont)

- d. Co A 712 Tk Bn  
(1) Atch 1 Plt to each 1st and 3rd Bns.  
(2) Maintain 1 Plt as Regl. Res prepared to repel counter-atk and assist adv within Regl Z.
- e. Anti-Tank Co.  
Displace 1 plst fwd as Inf reaches objs to provide AT defense in depth within Regl Z.
- f. 3rd FA Bn  
(1) Fire pration initial objs on call Bn Cmdrs.  
(2) Fire preparations on Bn objs 0815 and 0830.  
(3) Smoke high ground Darenbach and Hill 222.

Official:

STOTLER  
S-3BEALKE  
Cmdg

Authority **NND 735017**  
 By **JW** NARA Date **12-10-03**

358th Infantry - History -

21 January 1945

The 21st of January found the 2nd Bn still in the Rest Camp.

The 1st Bn, as per orders, jumped-off at 0930, and attacked in a column of companies B, A and C. Their march lay across open country, but they met no opposition, and by 1700 hours B and C Co's were in the town of Boevange-les-Cleavaux, Luxembourg, defending it, and Co A outposted the high ground to the west of the town. The Bn established its CP in the town of Heniville.

By 1000 hours Co K reached its PL 1, followed closely by Co I. Co I was alerted and ordered to follow Co K into Derenbach. No enemy had been contacted so far. At 1200 hours Co K was in Derenbach, Co L just south of it and Co I at about 36. At 1300 hours, the Bn was in the process of being pinched out by the 26th Infantry Division and the 359th Infantry Regiment, and Co K was now on its way to the town of Schwartz. At 1500 hours the Bn CP opened in Derenbach. The Bn then consolidated its gains and awaited further orders. At 2230 the Regiment informed the Bn that it would proceed, tomorrow, to Bastogne to rest, reorganize and receive much needed reinforcements.

The Regimental forward CP, located in Oberwampach, received at 210830 the Division FM #21, which follows:

2. 358th Infantry (-): Atchats - no change.
  - a. Regt less 1st Bn assembles beginning 1000 in the Wardin-Benonchamps area as Div Res. All installations in fwd towns will be displaced rearward without delay.
  - b. 1st Bn 358th Inf, with 1 Platoon Co A 712th Tk Bn, passes to Div Control 221000 to protect Div right flank, gaining and maintaining contact with 328th Inf on the R. When covered by the advance of the 328th Inf, Bn will be released to Regl control.
  - c. 2nd and 3rd Bns will be interchanged at Div rehabilitation center subsequent 221600. G-4 to provide necessary transportation.
  - d. Co A, less 1 Platoon 712th Tk Bn released from atchmt 221000.

And at 2100 hours Division sent the following note to the Regl Cdr, Lt. Col. Bealke, Jr:

"Re FM, desire that you clear the towns of Derenbach and the twin Wampachs as soon as possible to permit forward displacement of other units. Will take Nick under our wing, but hope to be able to release him to you for a rest by dark or at the latest midmorning 23 Jan.

Wallace indicated that he needed the bulk of tomorrow to finish delousing, organization etc. I suggest therefore, that you interchange his Bn and Spivey's early 23 Jan.

I believe I have accommodation for one battalion in Bastogne (reputedly good billets). If you desire to move one battalion there, I'll have Capt Hoye of this office contact you on the details tomorrow morning."

Authority **NND 735017**By **JW** NARA Date **12-10-03**

## 358th Infantry - History -

22 January 1945

The 1st Bn continued with its mission of protecting the Division right flank until 1130 when the 26th Inf Div pinched it out. The 1st Bn then pulled back to Boevange and came under Regimental Control. During the day the Bn received 200 reinforcements. No enemy action was encountered and the Bn remained in the area over night.

The 2d Bn was still in the Rest Camp.

At 0930 the 3rd Bn marched 4 km and then untrucked for Bastogne where it would rest and rehabilitate. The Bn arrived there at 1130, and spent the day making comfortable quarters for their rest. During the day, the Bn received two officer and 40 enlisted men reinforcements. An enlisted man, Company M, Sgt. Pemberton, received a battle field promotion for his excellent performance of duty.

The Regiment tabulated the enemy material KO'd between Neiderwampach and Boevange:

1 1/4 T Trk (Panel)	19 Trks (cargo)	9 Full tracks (cargo)
11 Sedans	1 carrier (Pers)	1 carrier - halftrack
1 Sct Car (4 wheel)	3 cmd cars	1 3/4 T trk (Am) recaptured
1 Ambulance	10 wagons	2 kitchen trks
8 75 cm guns	1 motorcycle	15 ammo carts
3 88 cm guns	1 81mm mortar	1 tube 81mm mortar
1 litter cart	2 red carts	1 12 cm mortar
1 tube 120cm mortar	1 15 cm how (comp)	

Authority NND 735017  
 By W NARA Date 12-10-03

358th Infantry - History -23 January 1945

At 0900 the 1st Battalion untrucked and moved to Haby-la-neuve, where Division maintained a Rest Camp. Here a Clubmobile and movies entertained the troops.

The 2nd Battalion left the Rest Camp and closed-in in Derenbach at 1800 hours. The Battalion immediately became Regimental Reserve.

The 3rd Battalion received 193 reinforcements. It reported further on its casualties. From 18 January to 22 January the Battalion suffered 30 casualties, swelling its total for the month to 221 - all types.

358th Infantry - History -24 January 1945

Regimental CP - Oberwampach.

Considerable difficulty arose over the crowded conditions in Derenbach. Division stated that it was in the 358th Infantry zone and all those who did not belong there must move out.

The 1st Battalion was issued new clothes, which they were badly in need of. They were entertained by movies and the Regimental Band. In the evening the Battalion conducted a dance which was attended by some 200 young ladies from surrounding villages.

The 2nd Battalion remained in position as the Regimental Reserve Battalion.

The 3rd Battalion received 33 more reinforcements, including 3 officers. The order of the day was amusement - which included movies P X rations, Ice Cream and showers. The Battalion was alerted to move on the 25th of January.

At 2130 Division issued FM #22, which in part, as pertains to 358th Infantry, follows:

5. 358th Infantry

- a. Remain in present position as Division Reserve.
- b. Tentative forward assembly areas - ASSELBORN - STOCKEM - RUMLANG.

358th Infantry - History -25 January 1945

Major General Van Fleet and the New Division Commander presented awards at the Regimental CP during the morning. Lt. Col. Bealke, Jr., the Regimental CO presented awards to the 2nd Battalion, at its CP, during the afternoon.

The 1st Battalion was still enjoying its well earned rest, which included showers movies and other Special Service activities. The 3rd Battalion continued its rest with a varied program of entertainment. The Battalion issued Shoe-Pacs to its letter Co's.

During the evening the Regiment received the Division order - FM #23:

1. 90th Infantry Division redispenses 26 January and continues advance to clear Z E to Our River.
2. Bdys, flag locations, assembly areas indicated on overlay effective 261200A.
3. March table follows.

Authority **NND 735017**By **JW** NARA Date **12-10-07**

358th Infantry - History -

26 January 1945

At 260200 the Regiment Operations Officer, Capt. Stotler, issued FM#9, which follows:

Hq 358th Inf  
260200 Jan 45

Field Message # 9

1. 90th Inf Div  
Redisposes 26 Jan 45 and continues adv to clear Z E to Our River.
2. 358th Inf.  
Atchd: 2 Plats Co A 712 Tk Bn Support: 344th FA Bn  
Co B 315 Med Bn  
relieves elms 6th AD, effective 261200A. Outposts line with 1 Bn and prepares to continue adv to E.
3. 2nd Bn  
Atchd: 1 Plat Co A 712th Tk Bn  
a. Relieves elms CCB 6 AD effective 261200A or upon capture of Weiswampach.  
b. Outposts line held by CCB within Regl Z and patrols to E.  
c. Contacts 357 on R (S) and elms 17 AB on L (N)  
d. Prepares to continue atk to E in sector to be asgd on Regl order.
4. 3rd Bn  
a. Dispatches rcn and quartering party to Wilwerdange at daylight 26 Jan.  
b. Assembles Bn Wilwerdange early afternoon 26 Jan protecting approaches to E&NE.  
c. Prepares to atk to E 27 Jan in sector to be asgd on Regl order.
5. 1st Bn  
a. Remain in present location, prepared to move to vic Troisvierges 27 Jan.  
b. Dispatches rcn and quartering party to Troisvierges so as to arrive by 261300 Jan.
6. Anti-Tank Co.  
a. Dispose AT plato so as to provide AT protection in depth within Regl Z.  
b. Prepares to displace fwd in support assault Bns.
7. Bdrys, flag locations indicated on overlay effective 261200A.
8. March table atchd.

BEALKE  
Cmdg

Official:

STOTLER  
Capt S-3

At 1130 the Regl C moved to Troisvierges. The 1st Bn remained in the Div. Heat Camp, but sent a quartering party to Troisvierges. Lt. James Aughtry, Bn S-3, oriented the troops on the past operation and informed them of possible future actions.

Authority NND 735017By JW NARA Date 12-10-03

358th Infantry - Hist -

6 January 1945 (cont)

The 2nd Bn moved at 0840 by truck and detrucked in Troisvierges at 0930. They then marched to Weiswampach and arrived at 1300. At 2340 the Bn received its orders for action on 27 January.

The 3rd Bn moved at 1200 by motor, 20 miles, and then by foot for 4 miles to Wilwandsange, Lux. By 1800 contact was established with the 17th AB Division. During the night the Bn pushed patrols to the town of Beiler. Some confusion arose over these patrols. The artillery had received orders to shell the town because of enemy activity observed there. It was after the patrols had been dispatched that the Battalion discovered this fact. Contact was made with the Reg'l S-3, who contacted the artillery, and the shoot was called off.

The Engineers maintained crews sweeping the highways and clearing them of snow, wrecked equipment and mines.

During the early evening the units concerned were in possession of the Regimental FM #10, which directed their action for the coming day.

Hq 358th Inf  
261800 Jan 45

Field Message #10:

1. 358th Inf.  
Continuous attack at 270830A to clear Z E to Our River. For bdrys, zones, obj, see overlay.
2. 2nd Bn  
Atchd: 1 Plat Co A 712 Tk Bn.  
a. Passing LD at 270830A atk within Z to seize obj B.  
b. Maintain contact with 357 on R (S) and 3rd Bn on left (N)  
c. On seizure of obj B reconnoiter possible crossing sites within Z.
3. 3rd Bn  
Atchd: 1 Plat Co A 712 Tk Bn  
a. Crossing LD at 270830A atk within Z to seize objs indicated.  
b. Maintain contact with the 87 Div on L (N) and 2nd Bn on R (S).  
c. Upon reaching Obj D reconnoiter possible crossing sites within Z.
4. 1st Bn  
a. Close in assembly area Wilwandsange 27 Jan PM  
b. Be prepared to assist the advance of assault Bns within Regl Z.

OFFICIAL:

STOTLER  
S-3

BEALKE  
Cndg

Authority **NND 735017**  
By **JW** NARA Date **12-10-03**

358th Infantry - History

27 January 1945

During the day Lt. Col. Bealke, Jr., Regimental CO conferred with the Commanding General at Division Headquarters, and upon his return, ordered his Battalion CO's to a meeting at the Regimental CP, where he instructed them on the future operations. It was now announced that it was now MAJOR HOWARD STOTLER, Reg't'l S-3.

At 0930 the 1st Bn entrucked at the Rest Camp and proceeded to Weiswampach, a distance of approximately 53 miles.

The 2nd Bn, in the early morning, dispatched patrols to their front in an attempt to contact the enemy. Contact was made by some patrols, which then returned. At 0900 the Bn Jumped-off, with F and G in the assault and Co E in Reserve. Their objective-- the town of Leithum. The attackers received little opposition and captured the town at 1030. Patrols were immediately sent to the Our River. One patrol contacted the enemy and was fired upon by burp-guns at a range of 100 yards. Its attempt to by-pass drew rifle fire from another direction. Another patrol came close enough to the enemy to hear voices. Arrangements were made for patrols to contact 3rd Bn patrols every two hours, commencing at midnight.

The 3rd Bn also advanced and met but little opposition. At 1440 the Bn CP moved into the town of Beiler. The assault companies continued their advance, which was slowed considerably because of the snow. By 1815 the Bn secured its objective and initiated patrols, which contacted 2nd Bn every two hours, commencing at midnight.

In the meantime the Regiment moved its CP to Wilwerdange. 2nd Bn reported that its wire crew and an E Company messenger captured 8 prisoners; who offered no resistance whatsoever.

At 2200 the Division G-3 issued its FM #26, which ordered the Regiment to continue its present mission.

Authority **NND 735017**By **JW** NARA Date **12-10-07**

358th Infantry - History -

28 January 1945

The weather hampered the advancing troops. A high wind, snow and rain continued from early afternoon throughout the night. Swift torrents flooded the countryside, and the terrain became a veritable swamp.

The 1st Bn moved at 0930 by foot three miles to the town of Beiler, Lux., where the Bn located its CP. The troops were stationed just south of the town. The 2nd Bn located in Leithum during the morning. The 3rd Bn remained in Beiler, but the Hqs troops were deployed in the woods.

By noon the roads were still drifted, and in some instances, impassable to motor vehicles. The Engineers were hard at work, however, making clearance.

The 2nd Bn requested dry socks for all its troops. The Regimental S-4, Major Walter Olson, anticipated these conditions and requests, and had the supply available. The Regiment, during this period, dispatched strong combat patrols to clear the enemy from the Regimental zone to the river Our. The 2nd Bn prepared to put Co G across the river during the night to secure the bridge. The 1st Bn was prepared to assume the mission of the 2nd Bn. By midnight Co F was at pt 258; Co G just East of it, with some troops on 259. Major William T. Wallace, Bn Co, sick with the flu, refused to be evacuated, and planned to get two companies across with supporting tanks and heavy weapons and Engineers. The 1st Bn would quickly follow-up. At this time wire and radio communication was out, and contact was maintained by runners.

The 3rd Bn river reconnaissance patrol reported at midnight that the crossing site situation was - river approximately 2 feet deep and 40 feet wide. Co I was on 267 and along the river and Co L was SW of 263 and Co K was at 264.

During the early evening, the Regiment issued FO #30, which follows:

Hq 358th Inf  
282000 Jan 45

F.O. #30

Maps: GSGS 4414, France and Belgium, 1:25000  
Sheets 5702, 5703, 5802, 5803.

1. a. Issued separately.
- b. (1) VIII Corps atks 290830A Jan to penetrate Seigried Line and continue NE with 3 Div from R to L - 90th, 4th, and 87th.
- (2) 90th Inf Div atks 290830A to seize successive objs (overlay). Upon capture of final objs contains enemy in Z.
2. 358th Inf.  
Atchd: Co A 712 Tk Bn Support: Co B 773 TD Bn  
Co B 315 Med Bn
- a. Atks within Z at 290830A with 2 Bns abreast, seize PL 1, 2, and 3.
- b. Continues atk to final line indicated.
- c. Maintain contact with 357 on R and 359 on L.
3. a. 2nd Bn  
Atchd: 1 Plt Co A 712 Tk Bn Support: 1 Plt Co B 773 TD Bn.  
(1) Atks at 290830A, forces crossing of Our R at site indicated and seizes High ground to PL 1.
- (2) Continues atk to PL 2.
- (3) Halt and reorganize on PL 2, prepared to seize obj 2 on Regl order.
- (4) Contains enemy in Z along line indicated.
- (5) Maintain contact with 357 on R (S), 3rd Bn on L(N), On final line contact 1st Bn on L.
- b. 2nd Bn.  
Atchd: 1 Plt Co A 712 Tk Bn Support: 1 Plt Co B 773 TD Bn.

Authority NND 735017  
 By JW NARA Date 12-10-03

358th Infantry- History -

28 January (cont)

- (1) Atk at 290830A, force crossing of Our R at site indicated and seize high ground to PL 1.
- (2) Continue atk to PL 2.
- (3) Halt and reorganize on PL 2 prepared to seize obj 1 on Regl order.
- (4) Halt on Obj 1 to allow passage of 1st Bn to Obj 3.
- (5) Maintain contact with 2nd Bn on R (S), 359th on L.
- (6) Upon seizure of obj 3 by 1st Bn, revert to Regl Pos, prepared to repel counter-attacks within Regl zone.

c. 1st BnZ

Atchd: 1 Plat Co A 712 Tk Bn

Support: 1 Plat Co B 773 TD Bn

- (1) During night 27-28 Jan assemble vic (845760).
- (2) After 290830A be prepared to pass through Z of either assault Bns to seize obj 1 and 2.
- (3) When assault Bns reach PL 1, displace forward prepared to pass between Assault Bns to seize Obj 3.
- (4) Upon capture of obj 3, contain en within Z along line indicated, contacting 359 on L, 2nd Bn on R.

The instructions for support and Anti-tank defence were also issued in this order to the Anti-tank Company, the artillery and the Engineers.

Authority NND 735017  
 By JW NARA Date 12-10-07

358th Infantry - History -

29 January 1945

The situation to the front of the 2nd Battalion was that the bridge was out - the roads still were drifted - and the weather was still bad. The Battalion CO requested 60mm mortar, small arms and bazooka ammunition in anticipation of a tough encounter. At 0830 the Bn jumped-off, with F and G on line and E in Reserve. By 1300 Company E had crossed the river, advanced and taken and secured the town of Stupbach. Due to road conditions, tanks and TD's were unable to cross until night. At 1900 roads enable supplies to go forward to the companies.

The 1st Battalion, at 0600, left its area and marched to the town of Leithum, where the Battalion now located its CP. At 1530 the Battalion attacked, A and C the assault units and B in Reserve. The Bn crossed the Our River through elements of the 2nd Battalion, attacked and secured the high ground 1/4 of a mile SE of the River. The attackers now dug-in for the night and the Bn CP located in Stupbach, with Co B. The days operation netted 10 prisoners. During the night Company B initiated strong patrols.

The 3rd Battalion jumped-off at 1434 after a 3 minute artillery smoke barrage. At 1445 Company I crossed the river and engaged the enemy with a fire-fight. Co L was close behind. TOT's and regular artillery was placed on enemy Infantry and armor concentration spotted to the front. At 1600 a platoon of TD's reported to the Battalion and and lent their potent support.

At 2100 Regiment issued its FM #1:

Hq 358th Inf  
 292100 Jan 45

Field Message #1:

1. 358th Infantry  
 Continues attack 300900 Jan to seize successive objs (overlay).
2. 1st Bn
  - a. Secure line indicated 29 Jan contacting 2nd Bn on R, 3rd Bn on L.
  - b. Continues atk 300900 Jan to PL 2.
  - c. Halt and reorganize on PL 2, prepared to seize Obj 1 on Regl order.
  - d. Gain and maintain contact with 359 on L and 2nd Bn on R.
3. 2nd Bn
  - a. Secure line indicated 29 Jan contacting 1st Bn on L and 357 on R.
  - b. Continues atk 300900A Jan to PL 2.
  - c. Halt and reorganize on PL 2 prepared to seize obj 2, on regl order.
  - d. Maintain contact with 357 on R and 1st Bn on L, on final line contact 3rd Bn on L.
4. 3rd Bn
  - a. Secure line indicated 29 Jan with 1 reinf Co contacting 1st Bn on R, 359 on L.
  - b. Move remainder Bn as Regl Res to area indicated closing prior to 222100.
  - c. Be prepared to pass through assault Bns to seize obj 3 on Regl order.
  - d. Upon capture of obj 3, contain en within Z along line indicated, contacting 359 on L and 2nd Bn on R.
5.
  - a. Other units - no change.
  - b. Atchmts - no change.

Official:

STOTLER  
 Maj., S-3

BEALKE  
 Cndg

Authority NND 735017  
 By JW NARA Date 12-10-03

358th Infantry - History -

30 January 1945

During the early morning the Engineer crews swept the roads and removed road blocks. Crews plowed the drifted roads and removed wrecked equipment. Bridge material arrived at the river and its completion was expected by daylight. 712th Tank Bn was notified of this fact. By 0215 the 2nd Bn and the 357th Inf had made contact and an attempt was to be made to clear the enemy pocket at 261 before daylight. At 0620 the enemy fired a 150mm gun on the bridge site, but the alert 344th picked up the guns location and placed fire on it. The 2nd Bn attempt to clear the enemy pocket area failed. At 0725 the Engineers reported that the bridge was in, but the approach on the far side was not complete. They had lost some men when fire was placed on the site, and 2 ammunition vehicles were still burning.

At 0900 the 2nd Bn jumped-off, with G and E on the line and F in reserve. By 0930 the Battalion had practically everything, including armor, across the river. The attackers made steady progress and by 1050 was engaged in a sharp fire fight with the enemy. The encounter was sharp but short. The Battalion cleaned up the resistance quickly and then proceeded with their advance. Throughout the day it encountered the Germans, but successfully drove them back. By dark the Bn was on its objective and had patrols making contact with adjacent units.

At 0930 the 1st Bn, with A and C in the lead, jumped-off to capture the high ground (overlay). Shortly after the jump-off the enemy layed a heavy mortar barrage on the assault elements. In this action the CO, Company A, was wounded and evacuated. It became necessary at this point to shift companies, and Company B moved through Company A. This feat was accomplished, and at 1430, Companies B and C resumed the attack, fought to the high ground, which was the Bn objective, captured and secured it. The opposition met during the later part of the day was scattered. Company C set up an Ambush party in the draw which netted 35 prisoners, 6 Germans killed and 4 wounded. At 1730 80 enemy Infantrymen, withdrawing from the 359th sector, moved toward Company C. However, before contact was made, artillery was placed on them and dispersed the group. Supplies were hand-carried to the companies during the evening, and the Battalion then dug-in for the night. Patrols were initiated and adjacent units were contacted.

During the morning the 3rd Battalion moved its CP from Laschied to Stupbach. The Battalion moved forward to the assigned area as Regimental Reserve and was closed in by dark.

At 1930 5 TD's were forward - 3 of them were already across. The TD personnel planned a reconnaissance for morning for routes for armor and to locate mine and road blocks.

The Division G-3 notified the Regiment that there would be no order tonight.

Authority NND 735017  
 By JW NARA Date 12-10-03

L 437

358th Infantry - History -

31 January 1945

The Regiment moved forward during the day, and the assault companies were constantly engaged with fire fights. Casualties were fairly heavy, but the damage inflicted on the enemy and the prisoners taken more than doubled them. The entire sector to the front held strong, scattered forces. Artillery was employed effectively and armor support greatly aided the attackers.

The 1st Battalion jumped-off at 0900, led by A and B. Company C remained holding the high ground previously won. The assault companies pushed through the enemy emplacements and were halted by numerous short range fire fights. However, at 1700 Company A had seized the high ground S and E of Heckholerfeld (the objective) and Company B assaulted the town. In taking the town, Company B encountered stiff resistance, but successfully completed the mission, cleared the town and took 30 prisoners. Company C then moved up and aided Company B to outpost it. Lt. Amory, CO Company B and Lt. Fablinger, after brilliant work, were wounded and evacuated.

At 0900 the 3rd Battalion jumped-off to seize its objective, PL C. The Battalion encountered considerable scattered resistance and light enemy artillery and mortar fire throughout the day, but late in the afternoon secured its objective. Company K was hit several times by Machine gun fire from flank positions. They brought artillery fire to their front with desired results. 75 casualties of all types were suffered by the Battalion from 25 January to 30 January, swelling its total to 296.

The 2nd Battalion encountered little resistance during its move forward until approximately 1500 when it ran into stubborn resistance from the Germans set up in the woods in front of Company F. Here the Battalion encountered small arms, MG and mortar fire. The Battalion, however, quickly closed in on the woods, drove out the enemy, and took several prisoners. Company F was ordered to proceed to the road, to take the tanks with them, and secure it before dark. This mission was efficiently carried out.

By midnight all units and adjacent units were in a well linked defensive position, and were also in receipt of the Regiment's verbal order for 1 February, which follows:

"Attachments - no change.

Continue atk at 010900 Feb (overlay), to seize and secure objectives indicated".