

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

History

HQ - 358th INF
 021900 FEB 45

F. O. # 31

MAPS: GSGS 4414, FRANCE & BELGIUM, 1:25,000
 Sheets 5702, 5703, 5802, 5803.

1. a. Issued separately.
- b. (1) VIII Corps continues atk to NE, making main effort on the L (North).
 (2) 90th Inf Div organizes Z to protect Corps R (South) flank.
2. 358th Inf
Atchd: Co A 712th Tk Bn
 Co B 773rd TD Bn
 Co B 315th Med Bn
a. Halts its adv. Organizes assigned sector for defense.
b. Maintains pressure against em by vigorous patrolling.
3. a. 1st Bn
Atchd: 1 Plat Co A 712th Tk Bn
 1 Plat Co B 773rd TD Bn
 (1) Upon relief of present sector 3 Feb 45 assemble HECKHALENFELD as Regtl Reserve.
 (2) Make maximum use of available time to ^{reorg} rehabilitate.
 (3) Recon sector 3rd Bn with view to relieving sector in approximately 36 hours.
 (4) Prepare plans for employment as counter-attack force in Regtl sector.
- b. 2nd Bn
Atchd: 1 Plat Co A 712th Tk Bn
 1 Plat Co B 773rd TD Bn
 (1) Upon relief of present sector by elms 3rd Bn prior to noon, assemble bn (vie sk pt 261).
 (2) Effect relief elms 357 within assigned sector beginning 031200A, completing prior to darkness.
 (3) Organize and defend assigned sector with 2 co's holding 1 as Bn Res.
 (4) Maintain contact with em by strong combat patrols.
 (5) Maintain contact with 3rd Bn on L.
- c. 3rd Bn
Atchd: 1 Plat Co A 712th Tk Bn
 (1) Effect relief elms 2nd Bn within assigned sector prior to 031200A.
 (2) Organize and defend assigned sector with 2 co's holding one as Bn Res.
 (3) Maintain contact with em by strong combat patrols.
 (4) Maintain contact with 359 on L and 2nd Bn on R.
- d. Anti-Tank Co
 (1) Coordinate emplacement of all AT defenses within Regtl sector.
 (2) Emplace AT weapons in depth within Regtl Z, digging-in and camouflaging all weapons.
- e. Co A 712th Tk Bn
 (1) Atch 1 plat to each bn on defense line.
 (2) Hold 1 plat in res ~~XXXXXXXXXX~~
 (3) Recon routes within Regtl Z.
- f. Co B 773rd TD Bn
 (1) Atch 1 plat to each bn on defense line.
 (2) Hold 1 plat in res STEFFESHAUSEN.
 (3) Recon routes within Regtl Z.
- g. (A) Organization of the ground will proceed in the following priority:
 Construction of 2 man fighting compartments and wpsn emplacements.
 Laying of hasty minefields.
 Construction of shelters.
 Improvement of comm to fwd units.
 Construction of alternate positions.
 Extension of obstacles. to include wiring-in of combat nests.

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History

P. O. #31, Hq 350th Inf dtd 021900 Feb 15 (Cont'd)

- a. Traffic Circulation Plan issued separately.
- b. Other details later.
- c. SEE Index # 01-38.
- d. CPO - Ops Overlay.

BEALKE
Candy

Officials

STOLER
Maj., S-3

DISTRIBUTION

- 1 - **Ops Room Liv**
- 1 - **En En**
- 1 - **AT Co**
- 1 - **31st FA Bn**
- 1 - **350th Inf**
- 1 - **IF Deputy**
- File**



indicated that the "Kampfgruppe" style of small delaying forces have been employed by the enemy to permit the bulk of the forces to withdraw behind the Siegfried Line. Casualties were moderate, the 1st Battalion suffering the heaviest losses in their fight for HECKHUSCHEID.

Since June 21, 1944, the Regiment has evacuated 502 wounded prisoners. This figure does not include wounded prisoners during the FALAISE GAP operation. According to Captain Crapin there were "too many to count".

The Division now issued its Field Message No. 28, which stated generally:

1. Keep contact with the enemy with limited objective attacks or combat patrols, clearing out all enemy Southeast to patrol line.
2. Consolidate positions along general line now occupied.
3. By aggressive patrolling maintain contact with and pressure against, the enemy, reporting immediately any indications of enemy withdrawal Eastward through the Siegfried defenses.

Today Major General Van Fleet relinquished command of the 90th Division and Major General Rooks assumed command. General Van Fleet visited the Regimental Command Post biding farewell to Lt. Colonel Bealke and his staff, and expressed the desire that all men of the 358th Infantry receive his "best wishes for continued and great success".

As the Regiment went into defensive position along the outer-rim of the Siegfried Line a Warning Order was issued of possible shift in the battalion boundaries.

Battle Casualties - 62.

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357th Infantry

HISTORY

- 2 February 1945

As prescribed by order from Division, the Regiment halted its advance and prepared a defensive position. The battalions were disposed as shown on attached overlay. During the day there was moderate artillery and mortar fire in the Regimental Zone. The elements again were the big fight - this time mud and water instead of ice and snow. The only action of the Regiment was the moving of the Regimental Command Post, Service Company, Medical Battalion, MP Company and Anti-Tank Company to the town of STEFFESHAUSEN from BELLER. The CP was established at approximately 1000 hours.

As usual the OUR RIVER has been on the rampage with the rain and melting snows. This is the third river crossing for the Regiment as an assault unit. As was in the case of the MOSELLE and SAAR Rivers, the waters rose immediately upon the crossing of the foot troops, making the problem of supplies and ammunition a difficult one.

Division Field Order No. 52 was received at 1600. 357th Infantry was ordered to the rear for re-grouping and re-equipping and consequently 358th Infantry took over part of the sector occupied by 357 while the 359th Infantry relieved the 358th on part of its Northeast sector. As a result of this shifting of troops 1st Battalion 358 assembled in the town of HECKHALENFELD 903786 for the purpose of cleaning up the troops, good hot food and a night's rest under cover. At this time it was expected that the 3rd Battalion would be the next battalion out of the line for rest and rehabilitation. Plans were laid for strong combat patrols to harass the enemy and also gain valuable information on disposition of enemy troops. Boche were seen occupying defenses in the Siegfried Line.

To Lt. Donohue, Regimental Liaison Officer, goes the "Orchid" for the classic remark of the day. After reading the Regimental Field Order he said "This Order should be framed. The Regiment halts its advance. I haven't seen that sentence since just before the holding position around BAUPTE in July".

A last minute report stated that the 1st Battalion received three volleys of twelve rounds each in the town of HECKHUSCHIED. Our own artillery fired on enemy troops on either side of the town when movement was noted by the outposts. Cries of "help, aid men" could be heard from the enemy positions. It is not a confirmed fact that the enemy was counter-attacking. Also a last minute patrol report from Lt. Rudes, 3rd Battalion S-2, that a patrol of five men, led by Sergeant Miller of Company I found no enemy at 917753.

Prisoners taken today is estimated at 25 - casualties in our own troops - 16, with no battle casualties up to midnight.

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358th Infantry

HISTORY

3 February 1945

The battalions reported a quiet night with little or no artillery mortar fire. It appeared at this time that the 358th would hold the right flank of the Corps sector and remain for a few days in a defensive position.

Active patrolling was continued during the night and the patrol of Company K brought back sixteen prisoners without firing a shot. The tale told was that they entered a small town of BERG (911749) on the outskirts of the larger village of GROSSKAMPENBURG. They cleared the village of BERG and talked the sixteen Germans into surrendering. Another valuable and classic example of fine patrol work was written in the annals of the unit's history. The bulk of the day was spent in the repositioning of troops in accordance with the Division plan to hold the Division sector with two regiments. The 1st Battalion now assembled in the town of HECKHALENFELD as Regimental Reserve, the 3rd Battalion assumed control of the 2nd Battalion sector at 1145, and the 2nd Battalion had already assumed that portion of the 357 sector gaining and maintaining contact with Task Force Deputy. It is expected that the relief of the 1st Battalion by the 359 would be completed shortly after dark, the reason being that their approach was over exposed ground and could not be accomplished during daylight.

The weather still played with the nerves and taxed the efforts of all concerned to keep supplies and roads clear and passable. The weather turned to rain with the melting snow, caused the water to rise enough to wash out approaches and Bailey bridges in the sector. At 2150 2nd Battalion had completed its relief.

As all was settled for a defensive position and a possible rest and drying-out we received the advance information that we were to be relieved by elements of the 11th Armored Division and we were to assemble our battalions in the following places: HECKHALENFELD, WILWERDANGE and STUPRACH, with STALBACH for the overflow. Regimental Command Post, Co B 315th Medical Battalion, Anti-Tank Company and the Military Police Company was to stay in STEFFESHAUSEN. Field Train remained in BERG REULAND. Warning Order was issued to all units.

Again the weather played its usual tricks by giving the "doughboys" the most difficult types of weather - wind, snow, rain, and sleet. Rain held the dominate light of the day and caused the streams to rise out of all proportions.

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358th Infantry

HISTORY

4 February 1945

During the night the battalions reported all quiet in their respective areas. The entire day was spent by the battalions closing into their assigned areas.

Once again the Regiment was set to enjoy a "drying-out" period but the Division G-3, Lt. Colonel Richard Stilwell warned the Regiment of an impending move. 358 issued Plan "A" with the main emphasis placed on assisting the 4th Division to seize line of the PRUM RIVER between PRONSFELD and WEINSFELD. The entire attack was hinged upon the 4th Division capture of BRANDSCHEID. It will be noted later that the entire town of BRANDSCHEID was never taken but the 358th relieved and attacked on order from Division.

Lt. Colonel Bealke announced that it was now Lt. Colonel William T. Wallace, Commander of 2nd Battalion. Lt. Colonel Wallace joined the 90th Division and the 358th Infantry back in the hedgerows of Normandy - the same night the 79th Division passed through 358 to capture CHERBOURG. The Lt. Colonel, then Major, served as Regimental S-3 for several months and then became Executive Officer of the 2nd Battalion and was elevated several times to being Battalion Commander, the last and final time during the BRAS battle.

Still the doughboys were fighting the weather more than they were fighting the terrain.

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358th Infantry

HISTORY

5 February 1945

The Battalions reported a very quiet night due to their trying to get warm, getting dry, and had a very good night such as it was, in barns and straw stacks, dreaming of the shower unit at WILWERDANGE. But it was to no avail because early in the morning we received orders to move to the following towns preliminary to making the attack on the West Wall. The 3rd Battalion was to move to BLEIALF while the 1st Battalion was to relieve the 22nd Infantry regiment of the 4th Div., at BRANDSCHEID. The 2nd Battalion moved to WINTERSCHEID along with the MP Co and the Regimental CP. We did not start our movement until 1330 and the 3rd Battalion, by using twenty-five trucks, moved to area by way of ST VITH, STEINBRUCH, IHREN and WINTERSCHEID where they detrucked and marched to BLEIALF. The 1st Battalion, by shuttle march, moved to BLEIALF from HECKHALENFELD by way of WINTERSPELT, WINTERSCHEID, where they slept a few hours and then moved out to make the relief of the 22nd at BRANDSCHEID. The 2nd Battalion, by shuttle march, moved from STUPACH to WINTERSCHEID via EICHENBUCH, HECKHALENFELD and WINTERSPELT. Anti-Tank and Field Train was to move early the next morning to WINTERSCHEID. The Regimental Command Post opened in WINTERSCHEID approximately 1630. Immediately, the I&R Platoon, under Lt. Payne, was broken into two squads and armed with mine-sweepers, proceeded to make a reconnaissance of the roads the Regiment expected to use the following day.

Again an almost continuous rain fell, soaking the already wet troops and making them very uncomfortable for a fight so close at hand. The weather was again playing its usual foul hand at holding up the American effort to secure peace by pushing the Germans back. This weather, as it will be seen in the near future, merely spurred the boys to get the pillboxes and get under cover.

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358th Infantry

HISTORY

6 February 1945

The day of the big attack on the Siegfried Line was greeted with heavy rain and snow. The 1st Battalion moved to relieve elements of the 22nd Infantry, 4th Division, in the BRANDSCHEID sector. Due to the inky darkness and the bad roads, coupled with the swollen streams that flooded the surrounding fields, the tactical transportation, including Tanks and Tank Destroyers, were late closing-in. The attack was scheduled for 0400, but the Division G-3 instructed the Regiment to be completely ready before attempting a jump-off.

During the relief the enemy counter-attacked with approximately five hundred Infantry and three assault guns. After considerable confusion the attack was beaten-off by both the 1st battalion and Company K and elements of the 22nd Infantry. Even though the counter-attack slowed down the relief and the attack, the enemy suffered many casualties - both killed and wounded. One hundred seventy prisoners were taken. Company B, 358th, and Company K 22nd Infantry reported men missing but these men turned-up (two complete squads of each company) the following night.

It was decided that the 1st and 2nd Battalions would attack at 1400, with the 3rd Battalion remaining where they were until further orders. Company I is to relieve Company A so that it can attack, and the 2nd Battalion will move to position South of BRANDSCHEID between the 1st and 3rd Battalions.

The rest of the day was spent in the reorganization of forces and the Engineers swept the roads of mines for the safe passage of the armor. The new plans of attack were completed with the 1st Battalion to continue on to its objective, cleaning out all the pillboxes from (980809) to (965791). The 2nd Battalion would gain its objective South of BRANDSCHEID while the 3rd Battalion would take high ground at check point 340 (002799). It was believed that this high ground would dominate the action and close the gap in the lines between the 358 and the 22nd Infantry. Enemy artillery fire and mortar fire was sporadic throughout the hours of darkness and the 3rd Battalion sent out patrols to their objective to check on possible enemy in the sector. As is always the case, a heavy fog hampered our operations as did the rain and sleet. Visibility was very limited for artillery support. With the weather the way it was, the Cub planes were grounded. All was in readiness at midnight for the coming attack at 0400. Defensive fires were plotted and all tried to get a few hours of rest before the jump-off.

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358th Infantry

HISTORY

7 February 1945

Plans were completed for the attack on the following day to secure the PHUM RIVER line and a comparatively quiet night was spent by all battalions until the jump off time.

The 1st Battalion notified Regimental Headquarters that they were ready to jump off but lacked their attached engineers. At 0540, they jumped off with Charlie Company in the lead and by 0825 had captured three pillboxes and taken approximately twenty prisoners. It was tactically necessary that each pillbox be taken in stride and completely wiped out. The tanks and tank destroyers were being used as a base of fire to keep the forts buttoned-up. Able Company reported heavy fire from their left front believed to be tanks and mortars. It was believed that enemy observation from the high ground at (986793) was causing the heavy fire on the 1st Battalion. Smoke from the artillery was brought into the picture and the fire decreased considerably. Due to the enemy infiltrating back into the pillboxes, all boxes were ordered demolished by extremely heavy charges of explosives. Almost an hour later Charlie Company had captured another pillbox with eighteen prisoners and a small mortar piece. The fifth and sixth pillboxes capitulated by 1135 and the prisoner count mounted steadily. By 1635 two more pillboxes were captured yielding sixty to seventy-five prisoners, all accounted for by Charlie Company. All in all the 1st Battalion by 1715 had accounted for ten pillboxes and over eighty prisoners with a comparatively small number of casualties, twenty reported. The 1st Battalion was ordered to halt for the night and establish contact with 2nd Battalion and to be especially alert against enemy infiltrating back into the pillboxes. The 1st Battalion held and buttoned-up for the night with Charlie Company out in front at (975805) extending East to (980805) and Able Company at (980809) extending East to (983809), making contact with George Company.

The 2nd Battalion jumped off at 0535 with artillery, mortar and small arms opposition. George and Easy Companies were the two assaulting units with Fox Company in Battalion Reserve. George Company was on the right and Easy Company on the left. Their assault was slow and deliberate and had progressed nicely but was having considerable difficulty with enemy mortar fire falling on them. As a result, the artillery expended some 1,350 rounds of ammunition searching out draws and likely spots where the fire might be coming from. The high ground at (004798) was covered with smoke. Maps were not too accurate in showing all the pillboxes and when the assault companies did encounter them on the ground they were found to be well camouflaged. It wasn't until 1145 that Easy Company reported the capture of four pillboxes and taking nearly thirty or forty prisoners. Front line reports came in that the Germans were fighting outside the pillboxes in trenches and using the pillboxes only as shelters. In previous pillbox engagements the enemy had always fought from within his cement and steel casements. At 1330 Easy Company reported the capture of another pillbox. The 2nd Battalion buttoned up for the night in the vicinity of (983809) and extended East to (986808), George Company extended East and North to (991809). For the day, the 2nd Battalion had taken eight pillboxes and had advanced some eight hundred yards on the left of the 1st Battalion. The Battalion had also accounted for some thirty to forty prisoners. Casualties were not excessive and the estimate at 1600 was approximately five.

3rd Battalion started the attack in Reserve, although King Company moved at 0630 to relieve elements of the 22d Infantry on the Regimental left. Item Company then jumped off at 0640 to seize Objective 3, the high ground at (005783). Item Company and King Company were in the assault with Love Company in Reserve. The 3rd Battalion moved with little or no opposition but were ordered to hold on the high ground at (004799) at 1205 hours. The battalion had advanced so very rapidly that they over-ran a mortar position in a draw taking some fifteen PsW and destroying 3 emplaced mortars. They were ordered to patrol to their front

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358th Infantry

HISTORY (Cond't'd)

7 February 45

and gain contact with the Fourth Division on their left. The 90th Division Reconnaissance Troop was assigned to the Division for that purpose at 1000. Task Force Grubbs relieved elements of 3rd Battalion so they could go on to the next objective. The Battalion made the furthest advance of the regiment, having no pillboxes to reduce. However, they encountered many mine fields which accounted for sixteen of their twenty-five reported casualties. They buttoned-up for the night with Love Company in Reserve near (003805), Item Company facing to the West extending North to (997798) from (998794), King Company (005796) to (003793).

Task Force Grubbs was formed with all available cooks and Anti Tank Company less the Mine Platoon and a few to care for the guns. He was formed at 0930 and had taken his motley crew of 160 men strong on to the line to relieve elements of the 3rd Battalion. Task Force Grubbs had the armament of four light machine guns, reconditioned M-1 Rifles, and a couple of .50 caliber machine guns. The one thing Captain Grubbs said they had plenty of was rifle grenades and bazookas. Task Force Grubbs moved right out with officers and men to occupy hill 340 at (004799) and to maintain contact with the Fourth Division in addition to the 90th Reconnaissance mission.

The Regiment had taken eighteen pillboxes, one-hundred-and-ten prisoners, and advanced over two thousand yards on the left flank, eight hundred of it being in the center, and over nine-hundred on the right flank. This was ground taken the hard way due to the fact the troops were fighting right in the heart of the German Westwall. The Regiment did not reach its objectives but it did send the Germans reeling back on their heels and were pushing and widening the small breakthrough. The Regiment suffered fifty battle casualties and some twenty from non-battle reasons. The weather was still playing a vital part in our plans and our losses. Plans for the next day were completed and all was quiet save for the average amount of artillery and mortar fire that fell during the night.

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358th Infantry

HISTORY

8 February 1945

1st Battalion received artillery estimated to be 105mm through the night but no casualties were reported. During the night one squad of King Company 22d Infantry and one squad of Baker Company 358th Infantry were rescued from the pillboxes in 1st Battalion sector. They had been missing since early on the AM of the Sixth. When the Germans attack during the relieving of the two units, these men were cut off. All men were accounted for and they stated that they had engaged the other boxes by fire during today's operation. Also they had observed the enemy laying mines along the edge of the woods at coordinates 985796. The 1st Battalion jumped off at 0630 and by 1030 had taken seven pillboxes with thirty-five prisoners. Able Company made steady progress against the boxes for the rest of the day and by night had taken some thirty pillboxes and well over a hundred prisoners. Baker Company followed close behind until they could attack East to relieve the pressure on the 2nd Battalion. The Battalion buttoned up for the night with Able Company assembled in the pillboxes and Baker Company extending North from 973790 to 976800 and Charlie Company extended North and East from 976800 to 981807 tying in with Dog Company of the 712th Tank Battalion which held the line from 981807 East to 987807. The Battalion had advanced 1800 yards to the Southwest to widen the breach in the Westwall .

2nd Battalion jumped off from their positions in an effort to drive South to take the high ground which dominated the entire sector. Easy Company had located two pillboxes in their sector and had captured them by 1230 with ten prisoners. At this time, George Company was shifted to the edge of the woods at 995805 to assist Easy Company in the assault of the high ground. Fox Company was being shifted to East to contact 3rd Battalion. At 1840, Easy Company had taken another pillbox with fourteen prisoners. After having taken some twenty-five prisoners and four pillboxes with an advance of some five-hundred yards, the battalion buttoned-up for the night with Easy Company at 987807 extending South and East to 991805. Fox Company extended South from 997808 to 997804. George Company extended South from 997804 to 996798.

3rd Battalion had Task Force Hugh cleaning out the woods and trying to gain the hill at 986794 but came under small arms and heavy mortar fire. The Task Force returned at 0230 and plans were laid to go after it in force at 0630 with Item Company and King Company in the assault. At 0630, Item Company jumped off with King following. Little progress was made through-out the day due to heavy mortar fire and not being able to advance because of other units not keeping up.

Task Force Grubbs buttoned-up for the night after holding the high ground protecting the 3rd Battalion left flank. They were disposed along the high ridge from 003793 East to 001796. The 90th Reconnaissance Troop maintained the contact between Task Force Grubbs and the 22d Infantry.

The Regiment advanced generally 1800 yards on the right flank and 500 yards on left flank. The Westwall on the left had already been breached and since the wall ran South west, our main effort was naturally in that direction. All the pillboxes were now taken and we were poised to go on to secure the PRUM RIVER line. The Regiment fully expects more pillboxes that have not previously located to show up in their sector. Our casualties still continued to be light, an estimated twenty-five for today. The weather is still causing many non-battle casualties of sickness.

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358th Inf

HISTORY

9 February 1945

The operations plan for the day was to take the high ground at 986794 with the 2d and 3d Bn, proceeding to objectives in order. 1st Bn was to remain in present position until the capture of the high ground then attack to secure objective one (high ground 990777 thence to objective three the high ground 995769 and as the final objective six, the high ground at 999754. The 2d Bn was to secure their portion of the high ground at 986794. Upon this they were to organize the high ground as the advance of the 1st and 3d Bns. Remain in Regt'l Reserve and be prepared to assist in the capture of objective within Regimental Zone and to protect Regimental left flank. 3d Bn was to attack 0630 to seize and secure their portion of hill 421 (986794). Continue the attack on order to objective two (004784) and objective four (high ground at (003774). Patrol to the river after capture of objective six.

The attack was delayed until better light and the 3d Bn jumped off at 0800 and by 0945 had the Eastern portion of its objective (Hill 421) with King Co. Immediately after this report was received, the battalion was ordered to go on to objective two. Love Company moved out and with little resistance had secured objective 2 by 1355. Resistance encountered by Love Company amounted to small arms fire and mortar fire. King Company and Item Company moved on to objective two. The attack for objective four was launched immediately. Captain Bryant, CO 3d Battalion, reported King Company at (999782), Item Company and King Company immediately left and Love Company (008788) reported in there. The battalion was receiving slight mortar fire, some high velocity fire. They were ordered to button-up there for the night. Final disposition of Item Company was (997781) extending Northeast (990785). King Company extended from (990785) North and East to (002788). Love Company was employed as a second line defense from (996784) East to (999785). The Battalion had advanced some 2,000 yards securing their two objectives. This was done by 1800 and three prisoners were captured.

The 2d Battalion jumped off their attack coordinated with 3d Battalion, at 0800 and reported on hill at 1010. Easy had to knock out two pillboxes on the way. Fox and George companies went on to secure the high ground so that 3d Bn could move off to their objective. The battalion closed-in an assembly area in the woods at (0079), so as to be ready for the next day's operations.

The Battalion advanced 500 yards to secure their objective and reverted to Regimental Reserve. They moved another 1500 yards later in the day in order to close up. The battalion suffered very light casualties and knocked out two pillboxes, capturing 8 prisoners.

1st Battalion received orders to move out and were on their way to objective one at 1020. At 1150, Baker Company was in the process of neutralizing a pillbox at (983787), capturing one prisoner. At 1215, Baker, Charlie, and Able, in that order, were moving along meeting no resistance except some mortar fire in the vicinity of the pillbox. 1310 found the battalion on its objective one and they reported contact with 3d Battalion. High velocity fire from the Southeast and fire from a communication trench held up the 1st Battalion. They remained here for the night under orders. The battalion had taken three pillboxes and three prisoners, and had advanced some 2,000 yards with very light casualties. Task Force Grubbs, after having reported contact with the 4th Infantry. There was no enemy between the two forces. The Task Force was ordered disbanded at 1510 with the I & R Platoon reverting to Regimental control and Anti-Tank Company reverting to being anti-tankers again. A job well done for such a mixed unit.

The entire regiment united had advanced some 2000 yards, capturing 12 more pillboxes and 18 prisoners with very light casualties.

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358th Infantry

HISTORY

10 February 1945

The plan of operations for the day is to have the 1st Battalion and 3rd Battalion attack at 0830 to seize and secure two initial objectives at the following coordinates respectively - (996776) and (006783). From the initial objective 1st Battalion was to take Objective 3 (highground 995769) and Objective 6 (999754). 3rd Battalion, after its capture of its initial objective (006783) was to seize and secure Objective 4 (high ground 003774), and to secure West bank of PRUM RIVER in vicinity of WATZERATH. The 2d Battalion was to be alerted to take Objective 5 (high ground vicinity 016784) and then on to the West bank of the PRUM RIVER capturing the town of WEINSFELD. After gaining their objectives, the battalions were to reconnoiter the river for possible crossing sites.

The 1st Battalion jumped off at 0830 and were ordered to hold their positions on objective 3. By 1745, the battalion had secured their objective 3 after encountering heavy small arms and tank fire. Casualties were very light and the battalion had advanced only a few hundred yards due to the order to hold at present positions. The battalion was disposed with Baker Company extending West from (998766) and (993767), Able Company extending from (993767) Northwest to (989771) and Charlie Company assembled as Battalion Reserve at (993777).

2nd Battalion was ordered at 1000 to send patrols to Objective 5 and be ready to move on short notice. At 1640 2nd Battalion jumped off to secure objective 5. Very heavy mortar and artillery falling on 2nd Battalion. Twelve prisoners were gathered in to the fold shortly after the jumpoff. At 1835 2nd Battalion had picked up fourteen more prisoners in a pill box at (004784). The battalion but-toned up with Easy Company assembled as Battalion Reserve at (0179). Fox Company extending North from (012785) to (013788) and George Company extending North from (013788) to (015792). The battalion had moved 800 yards capturing one pillbox and twenty-five prisoners. Casualties were very light.

3rd Battalion jumped off at 0830 and encountered heavy mortar and artillery fire. Smoke and artillery fire was requested on the high ground at (003773) to screen their advance from enemy observations. The attacks began with Item Company on the left, King Company on the right and Love Company in reserve. At 1038, 3rd Battalion reported being on the high ground at (003773) which commanded the terrain all the way to the river. Considerable enemy tank fire was directed at the high ground from the vicinity of WATZERATH. The artillery put a TOT on the town and the fire decreased considerably from that town. The Battalion had advanced some 800 yards in the face of heavy fire of all types to secure the dominating terrain feature. They suffered over 30 casualties. The battalion was disposed for the night with Item Company at (003769) extending North to (004774) King Company at (004774) extending North East to (006777), and Love Company assembled as Battalion reserve vicinity of (998783).

The Regiment advanced a 1000 yards in the face of heavy resistance coming from tanks, artillery, mortar and small arms fire. The line held by the regiment afforded complete view of the PRUM RIVER as well as the next day's objective of WEINSFELD and WATZERATH. The Regiment captured one pillbox and over forty prisoners. The Regimental Command Post was staged forward from WINTERSCHIED to the pillboxes just southwest of BRANDSCHEID.

DECLASSIFIED

Authority

NND 735017

By

JW NARA Date 12-10-03

HEADQUARTERS 90TH INFANTRY DIVISION
Office of the Division Commander

1 February 1945

TO THE OFFICERS AND MEN: 90th Infantry Division
712th Tank Battalion
773rd TD Battalion
537 AAA Battalion

With sincere regrets I leave the 90th Division. I take with me vivid memories of a great division, and an everlasting love for all of you -- swell and gallant "Tough Cabbies."

During my time with you since middle October, you have accomplished every objective with brilliant and heroic execution. No commander could expect more. Before Metz, across the Moselle, beyond the Saar, and now, from Bastogne the first unit back into Germany! Your great accomplishments will ever be proud pages in American History.

You have made this Division the Best Fighting Division on the Western Front. The experienced oldtimers know how to do it, and what it takes. They know "How to Kill" and equally important "How Not to be Killed". Reinforcements are fortunate to have these oldtimers as instructors and leaders. And all of us are learning every day how to do the job still better.

But the officers and men of the 90th Division have something else. They have a fighting heart. They want to Kill Germans. They want to get the job done. It is this desire to fight which makes the 90th the Best Division on the Western Front.

I wish to thank you all, for enduring hardships so cheerfully and ever and always coming through with superb performances. May continued good hunting and good luck be with you to early victory.

J. A. Van Fleet
J. A. VAN FLEET
Major General, U. S. Army
Commanding

DECLASSIFIED

Authority **NND 735017**
By **JW** NARA Date **12-10-03****HISTORY FILE****HQ 358TH INF**
082115 FEB 45

F. M. # 1

To : See Distribution.

358TH INF

Atchmts: No change.

1. 358th Inf atks 090630 to capture hill 421 and continue to Obj's indicated.
2. 2nd Bn
Atchmts: No change.
 - (a) At 090630 move under preparation fires to assault position.
 - (b) At 090700 assault hill 421 capturing portion indicated.
 - (c) Gain and maintain contact with 3rd Bn on L.
 - (d) Upon capture of 421 secure and organize.
 - (e) Revert to Regtl reserve on advance of 1st and 3rd Bns.
 - (f) Be prepared to assist in capture of Obj within Regtl Z; to protect Regtl L flank.
3. 3rd Bn
Atchmts: No change.
 - (a) At 090630 move under preparation fires to assault position.
 - (b) At 090700 assault hill 421 capturing portion indicated.
 - (c) Gain and Maintain contact with 2nd Bn on R.
 - (d) Upon capture of hill 421 held and reorganize.
 - (e) Be prepared to continue atk to Obj 2 on Regtl Order.
4. 1st Bn
Atchmts: No change.
 - (a) Initially remain present position.
 - (b) On capture of hill 421 be prepared to assemble via 337.
 - (c) Atk Obj 1 on Regtl Order.
5. Artillery
 - (a) Fire 30 minute HE and smoke preparation on hill 421 beginning 0630.
 - (b) Increase intensity of fire beginning 0650.
 - (c) All subsequent fires on call Bn Comdrs.
6. Other Units: No change in mission.
7. All supporting weapons including mortars, TMs and tanks will fire on hill 421 between 0630 and 0700.

BEALKE
Comdg

Official:

SPOTLER
Maj., S-3**DISTRIBUTION:**

- 1 - G-3 90th Div
- 1 - Ea Bn
- 1 - TF Grubbs
- 1 - 344th FA Bn
- 1 - 359th Inf
- 1 - 357th Inf
- 1 - File

F. 33

MA/ 0003 1001, FRANCE, BELGIUM, 1/25,000
Sheets 5703, 5704, 5803, 5804.

1. a. Issued Separately.
b. (1) VIII Corps passes to defensive upon seizure of PIERRE RIVER line.
(2) 90th Inf Div relieves along 11th Armd Div within new Z, organizes and defends new sector, contacting 11th Armd Div on R and 4th Inf Div on L.
2. 358th Inf
Attach Co A 712th Tr Bn
Co B 773rd TD Bn
Co B 315th Med Bn
a. Relieves along 357th Inf during darkness night 12-13 Feb 45.
b. Organizes and defends assigned sector (overlay)
c. Maintains contact with 4th Inf Div at limiting points indicated.
3. a. 1st Bn
Attach 1 Plat Co A 712th Tr Bn
1 Plat Co B 773rd TD Bn
(1) Relieves along K Co during darkness 11 Feb 45.
(2) Organizes and defends assigned sector with 2 Co's; maintain 1 Co as Bn Res.
(3) Man combat outposts at vantage points in front M.L.
(4) Maintain contact with 4th Inf Div at limiting point indicated.
b. 3rd Bn
Attach 1 Plat Co A 712th Tr Bn
1 Plat Co B 773rd TD Bn
(1) Upon relief by along of 4th Inf Div and 1st Bn during darkness 11 Feb 45, assemble in P/Bs SW BRANDSCHEID.
(2) Relieve along 357th Inf within Sector prior to 130000.
(3) Organizes and defends assigned sector with 2 Co's, holding 1 Co as Bn Res.
(4) Man combat outposts at vantage points front of M.L.
(5) Maintain contact with 1st Bn at limiting points indicated.
c. 2nd Bn
(1) Upon relief by along 4th Div during darkness 11 Feb 45, assemble as Regt'l Res, HABSCHIED.
(2) Prepare plan for employment as counter-attack force in Regt'l sector.
d. Anti-Tank Co
Coordinate AT defense of all AT wps within Regt'l Z with particular attention to PRONSFELD-HABSCHIED and PITTENBACH-BRANDSCHEID roads. All AT wps will be dug-in and camouflaged.
e. Co A 712th Tr Bn
(1) Attach 1 plat to each 1st and 3rd Bn.
(2) Hold 1 plat as counter-attack force prepared to move in Z of 1st or 3rd Bn.
f. Co B 773rd TD Bn
(1) Attach 1 plat to each 1st and 3rd Bn.
(2) Hold 1 plat as mobile force to repel tank atk within Regt'l Z.
(3) Man positions for defense of tank approaches within Regt'l Z.
4. a. STEYERHAUSEN - AUEL - WINTERSPELT - EICHENATH - HERRERS traffic loop will be operated one-way counter-clockwise.
b. Other details - issued separately.
5. a. SJI Index 01-40.
b. CPs - Opns Overlay.

BEALKE
Comdg

Official:

STOTLER
Maj., S-3

DISTRIBUTION:

(See Reverse Side)

DECLASSIFIED

Authority **NND 735017**
By **W** NARA Date **12-10-03**HEADQUARTERS 355TH INF
APO 90 U S ARMY

HAS:mb

February 12, 1945

MEMORANDUM:

TO : See Distribution.

1. During the period the Regiment is in the present defensive position, Commanders will exercise the following measures for the welfare of the troops.
 - a. B-Rations will be fed to the troops wherever the tactical situation will permit.
 - b. Improvised troop shelters will be constructed beginning 13 Feb with the aid of Co B 315th Engineers.
2. Renewed emphasis will be placed immediately on Field Sanitation.
 - a. Latrines will be dug daily in each platoon area and their use enforced.
 - b. To avoid the spreading of respiratory diseases, troops will not be overcrowded in shelters.
3. There are no prospects for Officer reinforcements. An OCS School will begin training in this Theater shortly, but Battlefield Promotions will continue to be the quickest method of obtaining Officer reinforcements. Quotes for this School will be furnished from Regimental Headquarters and Service Co. Qualified enlisted men in the remaining units of the Regiment will receive Battlefield Promotions.
 - a. A report, by number, of all pillboxes within battalion area not used will be submitted to this Headquarters by 1300 February in order that they may be demolished or rendered unusable by Engineer demolition crews.
4. Road conditions in the Division and rear areas is critical. All traffic will be reduced to an absolute minimum.
5. One extra day's supply of rations and water will be on hand with each front line platoon as a reserve in the event such units are isolated.
6. Bodies of American or German dead found in battalion areas will be reported to Regimental HQ immediately.
7. The Regimental AMO Officer will supervise the burial of dead livestock in the Regimental zone using available civilian labor.

By Order of LT COL BEALKES

HOWARD A. STYLES
Major, Infantry
3-3

DISTRIBUTION:

- 1 - G-3 908th Div
- 1 - En En
- 1 - AT Co
- 1 - Regt'l Hq Co
- 1 - Serv Co
- 1 - MP Co
- 1 - Med Det

Hastings

HQ - 358th INF
021900 FEB 45

F. O. # 31

MAPS: GS18 Hill, FRANCE & BELGIUM, 1:25,000
Sheets 5702, 5703, 5802, 5803.

1. a. Issued separately.
- b. (1) VIII Corps continues atk to NE, making main effort on the L (North).
- (2) 90th Inf Div organizes Z to protect Corps R (South) flank.

2. 358th Inf
Attends: Co A 712th Tr Bn
Co B 773rd TD Bn
Co B 315th Med Bn

- a. Halts its adv. Organizes assigned sector for defense.
- b. Maintains pressure against em by vigorous patrolling.

3. a. 1st Bn
Attends: 1 Plat Co A 712th Tr Bn
1 Plat Co B 773rd TD Bn

- (1) Upon relief of present sector 3 Feb 45 assemble HECKHAUSENFELD as Regtl Reserve.
- (2) Make maximum use of available time to regroup, rehabilitate.
- (3) Reconn sector 3rd Bn with view to relieving sector in approximately 36 hours.
- (4) Prepare plans for employment as counter-attack force in Regtl sector.

- b. 2nd Bn
Attends: 1 Plat Co A 712th Tr Bn
1 Plat Co B 773rd TD Bn

- (1) Upon relief of present sector by elms 3rd Bn prior to noon, assemble bn (via sk pt 261).
- (2) Effect relief elms 357 within assigned sector beginning 031200A, completing prior to darkness.
- (3) Organize and defend assigned sector with 2 co's holding 1 as Bn Res.
- (4) Maintain contact with em by strong combat patrols.
- (5) Maintain contact with 3rd Bn on L.

- c. 3rd Bn
Attends: 1 Plat Co A 712th Tr Bn

- (1) Effect relief elms 2nd Bn within assigned sector prior to 031200A.
- (2) Organize and defend assigned sector with 2 co's holding one as Bn Res.
- (3) Maintain contact with em by strong combat patrols.
- (4) Maintain contact with 359 on L and 2nd Bn on R.

- d. Anti-Tank Co

- (1) Coordinate emplacement of all AT defenses within Regtl sector.
- (2) Emplace AT weapons in depth within Regtl Z, digging-in and camouflaging all weapons.

- e. Co A 712th Tr Bn

- (1) Atch 1 plat to each bn on defense line.
- (2) Hold 1 plat in res ~~STEFFESHAUSEN~~
- (3) Recon routes within Regtl Z.

- f. Co B 773rd TD Bn

- (1) Atch 1 plat to each bn on defense line.
- (2) Hold 1 plat in res STEFFESHAUSEN.
- (3) Recon routes within Regtl Z.

- g. (a) Organization of the ground will proceed in the following priority:

- Construction of 2 man fighting compartments and wpsn emplacements.
- Laying of hasty minefields.
- Construction of shelters.
- Improvement of comm to fwd units.
- Construction of alternate positions.
- Extension of obstacles, to include wiring-in of combat posts.

- (2) Maximum depth will be preserved in all dispositions. Regts will maintain a res of 1 Bn at all times.
- (3) A program of planned fires will be maintained on all known em dispositions.
- (4) Prepare and submit to this Hq by 041200A plan of defensive fires.

During the night the Battalions kept the Regimental Operations well informed as to their situation. Company I made three attempts to enter the town of WATZERATH but machine gun fire denied them entrance. Considerable vehicular movement was reported in the town itself. The 1st Battalion reported no artillery or mortar fire on their positions. Other than six rounds of artillery near the Command Post, the 2nd Battalion reported all quiet.

The 1st Battalion was to attack and secure the high ground this side of the PRUM RIVER and patrol to the river as a preliminary reconnaissance to its crossing. The 2nd Battalion had the mission of capturing and securing WEINSFELD and gaining contact with the 4th Division on the left. The 3rd Battalion had the mission of capturing and securing WATZERATH. Both the 2nd and 3rd Battalions were to patrol to the river as a preliminary reconnaissance to the crossing of the PRUM RIVER.

The attack jumped-off with no apparent difficulty except the 1st Battalion which encountered stiff resistance all the way. The nature of the opposition was high velocity fire coming from its right flank, and artillery and mortar fire from across the river. It encountered very heavy small arms fire from the vicinity of a communication trench located at (999778) and extending Southwest to (994765). The Germans were making a definite stand along this high ground thus enabling its forces to withdraw from in front of our 2nd and 3rd Battalions assaulting on their objectives of WEINSFELD and WATZERATH which lay to the Northeast. The enemy seemed to be withdrawing from these two villages and moving Southwest to a village called PITTENBACH. Many artillery concentrations were fired upon the road network that was centered at PITTENBACH.

At 0910 the 2nd Battalion reported Company G in the town of WEINSFELD where they captured 10 prisoners. They assaulted the town by crossing the high ground in the vicinity of (016784) and then swooping into the town in a final rush. It was not until a few minutes later that Company G reported the town cleared of all enemy and it was then entered by Company E and Company F. It was now that Captain Morrison, recently made acting Commanding Officer 2nd Battalion due to evacuation of Colonel Wallace (ill), outposted the town and secured it from a possible counterattack. The Engineers were then informed that the road through the draw running generally from (008807) Southeast to (615792) thence Southwest to (013781) and through the draw into WEINSFELD was not under observation. The road was badly in need of repair. It was learned at 1525 that the 2nd Battalion would be relieved and withdrawn to the vicinity of HABSCHIED as Regimental Reserve. The relieving units were elements of the 4th Division and at 1845 they had assumed control of the sector. At 2100 the 2nd Battalion moved to the town and closed-in approximately 2400. Due to the lack of space the Regimental Medics and Command Post remained where it was for the night. This group moved into the town at 1000, 12 February.

The 3rd Battalion attack went well and at 1015 reported that Company I was in the town of WATZERATH but the town was not entirely cleared of enemy until shortly after 2300. Company L was to remain on the high ground at (005783) while Company K was to maintain a line of security to the East. The odd part of the 3rd Battalion attack was the fact that it was not until late in the evening that the battalion CO realized that Company I had crossed the PRUM RIVER and established a small bridgehead. Lt. Rugh of Company I stated his orders were to clear the town and since part of the town lay on the East bank of the PRUM he assumed that he would have to cross his company over the river and clean it all out. However, Company I was ordered to come back to the West side of the river and abandon its bridgehead. It was a sad day when the 3rd Battalion received orders to pull out of the WATZERATH bridgehead and be relieved by the 4th Division. Morale was high and the billets good - the men wanted to keep driving on. 1st Battalion 358 also took over part of the sector held by the 3rd Battalion, the latter withdrawing to the pillboxes in the vicinity of (971778) for the night and part of the next day when it would relieve elements of the 357th Infantry after dark on the 12th of February. This line was to be (973753) East to (993765).

All in all it was another day of combat against a stubborn enemy well done. The 2nd and 3rd Battalions had reached their assigned objectives and the 1st Battalion had contained the enemy in pillboxes to their front. Another portion of the Siegfried Line had been cracked and 358 held the distinction of being the first Regiment to have elements across the PRUM RIVER, in the 90th Division sector.

All these factors added up that the Division as assuming a defensive status and we gave up all our hard fought objectives to the 4th Infantry Division and we shifted South to assume sectors of elements of 357th Infantry. Inasmuch as we felt badly in turning over this hard won ground, it meant dry clothes and a rest for the doughboys who had been in the line for too many days. Also, a great deal of sickness prevailed and the non-battle casualties mounted with influenza, pneumonia, and worst of all, a very peculiar type of diarrhera, which was sapping the strength rapidly.

In summary, the Regiment had gained its objectives before noon, was relieved shortly after dark, giving up a bridgehead over the PRUM River and settled in an assembly area before 2400. This characterizes the aggressive spirit of the Regiment when the demands are known.

358th Infantry

HISTORY

12 February 45

The Regiment engaged in very little action today other than their moving into new positions, consolidating their own ones, and making themselves comfortable for what now appears to be a stay of several days in this sector holding the defensive line along the PRUM River. The Regimental Command Post, Anti-Tank Company, Regimental Medics, MP Company, Co B 315th Medical Battalion, and Co A 712th Tank Battalion all moved to the town of GROBLANGENFELD. 2nd Battalion completed its move to assembly area in and near HABSCHIED. The 3rd Battalion moved from its location in the pillboxes near (97178) to the line relieving elements of the 357th Infantry on a line (975753) East to (993765). This made a movement completed by 2355. The relief was completed without incident. Very little small arms fire and only sporadic artillery and mortar fire was received.

The 1st Battalion spent the day in constructing troop shelters, digging-in good defensive positions and setting up excellent fields of fire. At 2355 Division was notified that the Regiment was all in position.

358th Infantry

HISTORY

13, 14, 15 February 45

The Regiment's mission for these three days was to hold the PRUM RIVER Line - 013076 Southwest to 072758 - and to institute aggressive patrols. These patrols also reconnoitered for possible river crossing sites.

The 1st Battalion held the sector 013976 to 994765, with Company C holding from 013976 to 996770 and Company A holding 996770 to 994765. Company B was in Battalion Reserve. The Battalion CP was at 992778 in a pillbox. The high Ground at 003773 afforded observation over the PRUM RIVER and the town of PITTENBACH and WATZERATH. The 2nd Battalion, Regimental Reserve, was in HABSCHIED. The 2nd Battalion relieved the 3rd Battalion in its sector on the 15th of February which was merely a switch position of Command Posts. Company G relieved Company L, Company F relieved Company I, and Company E relieved Company K. The relief was completed by 2125.

The 3rd Battalion held the sector 994765 to 972758, Company L on the left and Company I on the right. The Battalion CP was in the town of HABSCHIED. The 3rd Battalion remained here until relieved by the 2nd Battalion to continue the attack. The sector held by the 3rd Battalion was astride the railroad running from Northwest to Southeast into Pronsfeld. They had control of the high ground to the Northwest of the river. Company K's sector, overlooking the sector, was the key sector. During the three days harassing artillery was received. The 2nd Battalion relieved the 3rd Battalion on the 15th. The 13th saw a very spectacular display of G-47 airpower when supplies were dropped by parachute to Army Supply Dump at BLEIALF. The Regiment was ordered to police its area of the German dead and dead animals. Vehicles were also picked up and parts of them pressed into service. One policing party of the 2nd Battalion went into a field that was mined and five were killed and three became litter cases. The policing policy was called off.

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

358th Infantry

HISTORY

16 February 1945

The periodic calls to the battalions during the night, 0001 to 0715, gave the comforting reports of all quiet. The entire day, after 1100, was spent in getting out the attack order and with it went out hopes of being relieved from the front lines for a few days.

Early in the day the 359 had orders to relieve the 358. These orders were revoked by the Commanding General at 1100, and the plans for the attack were brought forth. The attack is to straighten out the line which will generally follow the PRUM RIVER line and form a junction with XII Corps in the vicinity of MAUEL. The jump-off will be 180400 February. The Regiment will attack with two Regiments abreast and a third in reserve, making the main effort on the right. The 358 is to be pinched out. In order to meet the needs for the attack Task Force Grubbs was formed. Task Force Grubbs was to relieve Company C so that they could get a day or so rest. The relief was completed shortly after dark. The 90th Reconnaissance Troop was attached to 358 and they relieved Company B of 357. This shift of lines was to allow the attack to get set.

Task Force Grubbs was formed by collecting together Anti-Tank Company, I&R Platoon, and Cooks and until one hundred men had been gathered together. One squad of the mine platoon was attached to each battalion for the purpose of clearing main supply routes. Task Force Grubbs had as its weapons 50 caliber machine guns which acted as heavy weapons and four light machine guns, plenty of bazookas and their individual weapons.

The odd feature was that fifteen minutes after the relief was completed, Task Force Grubbs captured two prisoners. That, in the best of circles, is called speed. One of the cooks captured one of the prisoners and stated that he was going to take him to the rear and return to his kitchen, since as he stated, his work was done. Technical Sergeant Morrision was the patrol leader that made the patrols to and from the 4th Division. Very difficult terrain was encountered in this virgin territory.

The 1st Battalion had little to report other than some enemy fire on their position. The 2nd Battalion, after its relief, had nothing to report other than harrassing fire. About 2315, the companies of 2nd Battalion reported heavy enemy movement in the vicinity of 970741 and in the town of MASTHORN. Artillery was called for on these movements. From HABSCHIED the 3rd Battalion reported all quiet.

The Regiment issued Field Order No. 34 which was the attack order to attack at 180400 to seize and secure the PRUM RIVER line. Lots of artillery was to be called for tonight to keep the enemy plenty harassed and awake. Tomorrow night, fire was to be light so that the troops would awaken the Germans with bayonets at their bellies.

The Regiment had two battlefied promotions - Lt. Wagner from Company I and Lt. Roed from Company M. Lt. Wagner picked up a DSC on the way. Lt. Colonel Bealke pinning on the bars said, "You have your feet going in the right direction - keep them going there".

The rest of the day, from the issuing of the order at 2330, was very quiet.

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

358th Infantry

HISTORY

16 February 45 (Contd)

At the end of the period the Regiment held the high ground running along the West side of the PRUM RIVER in a Southwest direction fro 012779 to 963753. 1st Battalion held the sector around 995765. Task Force Grubbs held the sector from 012779 Southwest to 000772. 2nd Battalion held the sector from 986765 Southwest to 971760 with Company G on the right and Company F on the left. The Reconnaissance Troop held the high ground at 975756 to 964754. The 2nd Battalion CPs at HABSCHIED and the 1st Battalion CP was in the vicinity of 985794. The Regimental CP, Company B Medical Battalion, Co B 315th Engineers, Co B 773rd TD Battalion and Service Company all were in GROBLANGENFELD.

358th Infantry

HISTORY

17 February 45

The day was spent in completing plans for forthcoming attack with all units of the Regiment and their attached units remaining in the positions they held at the close of the day on the 16th. The 8-inch guns had the mission to harass the enemy at PRONSFELD with particular emphasis placed on the main bridge in PRONSFELD.

Decorations were awarded to members of the 2nd Battalion. Major General Rooks and General Ernest visited the Command Post and conferred with Lt. Colonel Bealke about our attack plans. We were to be relieved by 4th Division elements as quickly as possible so that the Regiment could be placed in Reserve. Roads and trails were being checked by the Engineers so that our rear area would be ready to support the attack. There is no action planned until 0400 on the 18th. We are to have some artillery in front of the 1st Battalion so as to soften up the high ground that is to be their objective.

All in all there was little enemy activity in the Regimental sector. The unit was getting ready for the attack on the PRUM bulge.

The attack order, 16 February, directed the Division to secure the West bank of the PRUM RIVER and make contact with XII Corps. The 358th was given the mission of clearing the zone to their front to the river. The 1st and 2nd Bns were ordered to attack at 180400 February. The 1st Battalion was to gain objective 1 at (998758) and the 2nd Battalion objective 2 at (983758), and then they were to proceed to objective 4 at (992741). The 3rd Battalion was to remain in HABSCHIED, until ordered to seize and secure MASTHORN. It was planned that upon reaching objective 2 the 2nd Battalion would move through the Recon Troops and attack abreast of the 2nd Battalion. When the Recon Troop was passed through it was to assemble in the vicinity of HABSCHIED and to wait orders to act as a contact unit. This movement also depended on the advance of the 359, as the main effort of the division was to be on the right flank. The 358th Infantry was on the inside of the swinging movement so our entire operation depended on the movement of the other two regiments of the division. After securing objective 1, the 1st Battalion was to be relieved by the 12th Infantry. Task Force Grubbs was also to be relieved by this change in boundary. This relief was to be made as soon as possible after objectives 1 and 2 were seized and secured.

Between 0001 and 0400 little artillery fell on our positions. Plans were being completed and troops were getting into position for the scheduled jump-off. At 0400 the attack jumped-off and went according to plan with the 1st Battalion reporting on their objective by 1000 with only one casualty. Company B was on objective 1 and Company A attacked to their right rear capturing 4 pillboxes and 33 prisoners. Company C was left on their objective until they moved forward to about (995768) as Battalion Reserve. After securing the high ground on Objective 1 the 1st Battalion spent the balance of the day mopping up the sector, ready for relief at 1600. Patrols were sent to PRONSFELD where they encountered small arms and mortar fire in vicinity of (000748). They were unable to penetrate this line so returned with full report. Another Task Force with a platoon of Company C and a couple of tanks were dispatched to PITTENBACH. This Force encountered a strong enemy force and were denied entrance into the town. They were to have cleared the buildings this side of the river. Due to the fact that the relief was underway, the 12th Infantry assumed control of the sector and the small task force was relieved as was Task Force Grubbs, and the 1st Battalion as of 2000. The new North boundary of the division went into effect as of 2000. The 1st Battalion was expected to close in their previously reconnoitered area in HABSCHIED by 2400. They reported clearing BRANDSCHIED at 2100.

The 2nd Battalion attacked on time and moved rapidly until they encountered five pillboxes in Company G area. By 0840 all five boxes and seventy-five PWs were taken. They reported at 0850 that they had taken Objective 2. They were awaiting orders to continue the attack and Captain Morrison, Battalion CO, had plans of passing Company E through Company F. Companies E and G after receiving considerable artillery and mortar fire attacked and drove to the vicinity of (980754). There they encountered strong opposition from what they believed to be pillboxes. Darkness closed in too rapidly so Captain Morrison ordered the battalion to button-up for the night. 2nd Battalion finished up with Company G at 983955 extending to 985756; Company F at 978755 to 983755; Company E assembled in vicinity of 984765.

The orders were issued at 1200 to continue the attack with 2nd Battalion and 3rd Battalion abreast at 1300 to secure objectives 3 and 4. The 3rd Battalion passed through the Recon Troop, and were in position, less their armor, at 1300 but told to hold up until 359 could get into position and provide protection.

The 3rd Battalion, now commanded by Captain Bryant, due to Lt. Col Spivey's illness, jumped off at 1400. The delay was due to the late coming of the armor. L and K companies led the attack. The attack went well until artillery and mortar fire slowed down the assault. Company K continued its advance to the high ground at 973760 where they were held up waiting for armor. Company L continued to 974 750 where they were stopped to await armor and TD's, and Company I was astride the road at 986748 waiting orders as Battalion Reserve. A mine field at 963750 was holding up our armor. Lack of mine sweepers was hampering our operations. A hastily formed squad swept the roads and the armor moved forward. The tanks held up for the night at 971741. Company I moved to 970745 for the night and Company K remained where they were at 973760 and sent patrols forward and Company L at 974750. The 3rd Battalion CO was ordered to go into the town of MASTHORN without

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

358th Infantry

HISTORY

19 February 45

The 2nd and 3rd Battalions reported harassing fire during the early morning hours. The Regiment gained its objectives with very little resistance. In one hour the 3rd Battalion had its objective, MASTHORN, and in two hours the 2nd Battalion had its objective, high ground at 992741. The balance of the day was spent in consolidating positions in preparation of relief by other units.

The plan was now for the Regiment to be employed on the Division right flank and then making contact with the XII Corps at MAUEL. This employment again depended on the advance of the 11th Armored Division and the other two Regiments. Our losses were one officer and four enlisted men who ran into a mine field. This personnel was from Company I. Two men of the 2nd Battalion were wounded while clearing a mine field. The Battalions received heavy shelling after they gained their objectives.

The 1st Battalion remained in its assembly area until afternoon when it moved to HECKHUSCHEID. However, due to crowded conditions it was ordered to proceed to the town of HECKHALENFELD and they closed in there at 2015.

With Company E on the right and Company F on the left, the 2nd Battalion attacked at 0700. They moved rapidly and soon reached their objective - the high ground 992741 where they immediately dug-in to hold. Although enemy fire was heavy, no casualties were reported. During the day they received orders that they were to relieve the 3rd Battalion in MASTHORN after dark. The relief was completed and the 2nd Battalion was in control at 1815. The 3rd Battalion was now moved to HABSCHIED. They buttoned-up for the night with F Co on the Left and E Company on the right. Orders from Division attaching 2nd Battalion to the 359th as soon as they had advanced to their immediate objective were received and passed on. This would become effective on the 20th of Feb.

3rd Battalion with K and L companies assaulting, jumped off at 0645 to take the town of MASTHORN. K was to take the high ground Northwest of the town, and L Company was to mop-up the pillboxes just North of the town. I Company remained astride the road running Northwest from the town. Company K acted as the main base of fire while Company L and two platoons of Company K assaulted the town. Immediately after the seizure of the town, Company I was immediately deployed on the right of the Regimental sector from 975740 to 969744. The enemy was now shelling the town and the area around it. No casualties, however, were received from this action. Shortly after dark, the battalion was relieved by Company E and began to assemble in the town of HABSCHIED, closing in at 2350. Field Message 32 was received from Division just before midnight, and follows:

358th Infantry

Atchmts - No change.

Mission - No change.

Revert to Div Res 2nd Bn on order.

As the day progressed the weather and visibility became better and the artillery observers took full advantage of it. The air corps also put in an appearance to our front.

Authority **NND 735017**
By **JW** NARA Date **12-10-02**

358th Infantry

HISTORY

20 February 1945

Throughout the night the contact patrols between the 359th Infantry on the right and the 12th Infantry Regiment on the left, made scheduled contacts. The I&R OP reported hourly to the Command Post and its reports were all negative - no enemy ground activity, no enemy shelling. Interrogation reports stated that the American artillery had paid-off with a vengeance by playing havoc with enemy communication and transportation. The rain and mist that had hampered us so during the past operations again began to fall. The only movement of the Regiment during the day was the necessary transportation for reconnaissance. Plans were drawn up for the employment of the Regiment in a new sector.

The 1st Battalion remained in HECKHALENFELD. Showers were made available to the troops as was such needed clothing. SSO provided movies.

The 2nd Battalion remained on line in the same position. They continued to receive enemy shelling and three casualties were reported. Under a white flag, two deserters approached the lines, but would only come part way. Company F, realizing that this might be a hoax, decided to investigate. Artillery and mortar fire was falling so that it was not so improbable that these two were acting as artillery observers. Taking the situation into his own hands, S/Sgt Kessler of Company F made arrangements for covering fire and he moved out to the pair. In a short time he was back with his prisoners. They reported that there were twenty-five more who wanted to surrender only their officer would not let them.

The 3rd Battalion remained in HABSCHEID and spent the day cleaning up, which was just the kind of a day a doughboy likes after having spent some twenty-five days in the line. Movies were made available and showers were promised for the coming day. A Regimental officer visited the Command Post and oriented the Battalion Staffs on the "Big Picture and on recent new enemy identifications.

Shortly before midnight, Division Field Message 33 was received and was briefly as follows:

Division continues attack 21 Feb 45 to seize assigned objectives. 358th Infantry, Co B (-1Plat) 315th Engr Bn, detached 210800A. 2nd Bn detached 211200A and attached 359th Inf. Other attachments - no change. Mission - no change. 358th Inf (-) reverts to Division Res, and responsibility for present Z ceases 211200A.

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

358th Infantry

HISTORY

21 February 45

At 1300 the Regiment's rest was interrupted by the Division Order to clean out the draw between HICKESHAUSEN and HALENBACH before dark. At 1310, the 3rd Battalion was alerted and given the mission. The Battalion quickly organized and moved out of HABSCHIED by motor, six miles, to 941926, via HECKASCHIED. Here they organized for the attack. The Battalion jumped off with Companies I and L as the assault units. The well planned offensive proved to be a tactical surprise to the enemy. Little resistance was encountered and only 4 casualties were suffered. By 2000 Company I had secured its objective - the town of HICKESHAUSEN, and Company L captured HALENBACH. The Battalion now halted and consolidated its gains and positions. The capture of these two erstwhile strong points broke the German line in the sector. For this swift and decisive action, the Battalion received a personal commendation from the Division Commander, Major General Rooks.

The 2nd Battalion, attached to 359, remained in its hard fought for positions. During the day they received word that they would be released and revert to 358 control, 220900 February. The assembly area would be the woods at 930713.

Company C was attached to Task Force Spiess, an organization composed of Headquarters 773rd TD Bn (-), 1 platoon of Company C 773rd TD (-), 90th Division Reconnaissance Troop, Company D 712th Tank Battalion, 1 platoon Company B 315th Engrs Bn, 1 Rifle Company 358th Infantry, 602 TD, and Anti-Tank Company 358th Infantry and would form at the village of HOUF and vicinity of 944702. This formidable force was attached to the 358th Infantry and would aid in the support of the right flank when the Regiment made the East turning movement on the attack South. The TFS was ordered to be formed by daylight.

The Order of 21 February called for the Division to continue the attack to clear the enemy West of the PRUM RIVER within its zone. The 358th Infantry would attack at 0730 on 22 February to secure objectives and clear enemy with its zone of action. Objective 1 was already held by the 3rd Battalion. Objective 2 was ARZFELD and the road net around the town. Objective 3 was the high ground and road junction and road net in the vicinity of 958643. Objective 4 was the road net and high ground East of HOLZCHEN in the vicinity of 986657. Objective A was the high ground at 930678. Objective B was the hill at 935667. Objective C was a series of small hills at 940655. Objective D was the ridge with small saddle at 952640. Objective E was hill and cross road at 960628.

The plan for the 3rd Battalion was to seize Objective 2 and maintain contact with 357th on the left, continue the attack and seize Objective 3 on Regimental Order. Upon seizure of objectives 2 by the 3rd Battalion, the 1st Battalion would pass to their left and seize Objective 4. TFS was to protect the left flank by securing lettered objectives on Regimental Order. Normal attachments were to be made by the Engineers, Co B of the TD Bn and Co A of the 712th Tank Bn.

The Regimental Command Post was in a pillbox in the vicinity of KESFELD, with the rear installations at GROSLANGENFELD.

Things moved rapidly when they once began. The 358th was committed around the right end to give the Division the kick that it needed to secure the objective, where they would wait for the XII Corps to secure its objective.

Highlight of the day was the promotion of Lt Colonel Bealke, Regimental Commander, to Full Colonel. Colonel Bealke joined the 358 in 1941 and took command of Service Company, followed by promotion to Executive Officer, 1st Bn., then Commander of 3rd Battalion and finally Regimental Commander December 1944.

The 1st Battalion entrucked in HECKHALENFELD, moving to an assembly area near the town of BINSCHIED, motor move of about twelve miles. The battalion entrucked at 0400 and received orders at 0836 to attack immediately and seize Objective 4 (988657) the high ground in accordance with Plan "A". In this plan the 1st Battalion was to by-pass ARZFELD, come abreast of the 3rd Battalion, seize and secure the town of HOLZCHEN and the high ground some 1000 yards due East of the town. This attack jumped off in a column of companies with Able Company in the lead. They ran into trouble at check point 127 (955685) 1500 yards East of the town of HALENBACH. Able Company handled the situation while Baker Company and the forward command post remained at HALENBACH. Able Company cleared the resistance out by capturing two officers and forty men. They then moved out into the attack again and was reported on the Northeast outskirts of ARZFELD at 1507, still on the move to the Objective. The battalion by-passed the woods at (975667) and made a final rush to seize the town of HOLZCHEN and push patrols out to the remainder of the Objective, the high ground to the East. Their Objective was seized and secured at 2200 and the final disposition for the night was Able Company on the left and Baker on the right with two squads of Able on the high ground to the East. Able Company extended North from coordinate (982656) to (983660) with the two squads at (988657). Baker Company held the line from (977652) Northeast to (982656). Command Post was at ARZFELD.

One squad of Able Company captured one hundred prisoners on the high ground East of the town. They caught the Germans hitching their horses and trying to get away. The bulk of the prisoners were from the 276th Field Artillery Regiment and stated that our troops had over-ran their positions including their horse-packs and motor pools.

The 2nd Battalion was relieved of attachment to the 359th Infantry early in the morning and were ordered to an assembly area North of BINSCHIED with the command post to be located in BINSCHIED. Task Force Speiss could not go any farther as they had no one left to leave as a protecting force on the flank. It was decided to use the 2nd Battalion so at each point a company was deployed to protect the right flank. Fox Company was on the high ground at (923688) Southwest of BINSCHIED, George Company at (930679) Southeast of HICKESHAUSEN, and Easy Company at (936668) West of ARZFELD. This is the way the battalion was disposed at the end of the day.

3rd Battalion jumped-off in the attack and moved out to capture Objective 2 (the town of ARZFELD) and Objective 3 (town of WINDHAUSEN and high ground to the South). Their jump-off was delayed a short time due to tank fire hitting their left flank. Artillery soon located the source of fire and the battalion continued its attack. At 0755 King Company was reported at (945678) while Item Company was containing the enemy at (955685) until the 1st Battalion could arrive. This pocket did not slow down the battalion as it continued with Love and King Companies abreast to capture ARZFELD by 1120A where they had over-run the enemy mortar platoon intact and capturing some twenty prisoners. In the assault the battalion used plenty of fire power and needed ammunition to replenish their supply before moving on. At 1655 ammunition was distributed, Task Force Speiss had taken the high ground on the flank, and as the 1st Battalion was abreast, they jumped off. At 2010 Item and Love companies assaulted the town of WINDHAUSEN and had the town totally secured by 2030. The Objective was completely secured by 2100. The battalion buttoned-up for the night with Love on the left extending Southwest from (974645) to the road junction at (968641); Item Company on the Right extending West from (968641) to (961640); and King Company battalion reserve assembled near ARZFELD and the battalion command post in ARZFELD. Thus the battalion had captured two towns, taken one enemy mortar platoon in tact plus upwards of fifty prisoners and had advanced some 6000 yards to gain their objective.

Task Force Speiss attacked at 0730 to seize and secure objectives A, B, C, and D which was all high ground at (930679), (935668), (941654) and (949639). From these points he was to secure our rear and flank. At 1315, Task Force Speiss reported securing Objectives C and D. They encountered considerable fire at Objective A and had secured it before long. TFS was relieved of Objectives A, B, C, by our 2nd Battalion. This action allowed the Task Force to regroup with some strength so as to take Objective E and continue their attack to the East. Colonel Speiss reported he had run out of troops and needed reinforcements. TFS buttoned-up for the night with his force spread in strong points at (930670), (930662), (935655) and also along ridge at (940646).

Authority **NND 735017**
By **JW** NARA Date **12-10-01**

358th Infantry

HISTORY

22 February 45 (Contd)

In summary, the Regiment employed all three battalions to advance some 5,000 yards gaining the Objectives for the day with a final assault at night. They captured upwards of 300 prisoners, four self-propelled guns, and one tank, many horse drawn artillery pieces, and five localities. Orders were issued for the next day and through out the night 1st battalion was very much on the alert. The laert was caused by two tanks that had been passed in the woods at (975666). After much artillery fire at that point the two tanks moved out and heaced East toward the German side of the line. They made the run for it through Baker Company position. Several rounds of bazooka were fired but no effect noticed or reported.

Regimental Command Post moved from KESFELD to BINSCHIED.

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

358th Infantry

HISTORY

23 February 1945

The plan for the day was to continue the attack to secure line of the PRUM RIVER within the Regimental zone. The 358th Infantry was to take successive objectives until PRUM RIVER line was reached. The 1st Battalion was to secure Objective 4 (high ground at 989658) and be prepared to seize Objective 6 (high ground at 003664) and the town of LAUPERATH. Patrols were to be sent to PRUM RIVER upon seizure of Objective 6. The 2nd Battalion was to assemble in ARZFELD and be prepared to displace forward to WINDHAUSEN. 3rd Battalion was to seize and secure Objective 5 (KRAUTSCHEID) and to continue attack to Objective 7 (BELLSCHIED and high ground to the South; also Objective 8 (OBERPIERSCHIED and the high ground to the North, prepared to send patrols to MAUEL to contact elements of the 80th Division. Task Force Speiss was to seize Objective E (HELLBACH), Objective F (high ground at 968621), Objective G (Upper-Hausen) Objective H (BERKOTH), Objective I (high ground at 024625), and Objective J (PHILLIPSWEILER).

1st Battalion, the early hours, reported two enemy tanks in the vicinity of 975665 considerably behind our lines. These tanks caused considerable trouble until such time as it got too "hot" for them and they fled to the East. The 1st Battalion jumped off at 0730 and completed their seizure of Objective 4, (the high ground East of HOLZCHEN), and received orders at 0800 to move on to Objective 6. By 1245, the battalion had knocked out one tank, two self propelled guns and had some eighty prisoners. The battalion mounted a platoon of infantry on their TD attachment and were reported meeting no resistance, riding on to Objective 6. Orders were issued to 1st Battalion to hold there and reorganize. Reason to hold was to enable them to make a rush to secure the bridge at WAXWEILER in tact. The Battalion jumped off on this mission at 1630 and were reported nearing WAXWEILER. At 1710, Able Company was at check point 171, (010661) with Baker Company close behind them. The bridge was blown before the 3rd Battalion of 357 could get to it so 1st Battalion was ordered to hold where they were and secure the Objective 6 (high ground West of the PRUM RIVER. Easy Company was attached to 1st Battalion for the purpose of acting as an outpost company on the West side of WAXWEILER and to relieve elements of the 357 in our zone.

2nd Battalion had a patrol to contact 6th Armored Division in the vicinity of IRRHAUSEN during the night. The battalion received orders to move to check point 193 at (983656) so as to act as Regimental Reserve. They were warned to keep closed behind the 1st Battalion. They reported closed-in assembly area near HOLZCHEN at 1423. The 2nd Battalion remained in this area minus Easy Company until the close of the period. Easy Company was attached to the 1st Battalion as an outpost company as stated previously.

The 3rd Battalion attacked at 0730 and had taken Objective 5 (KRAUTSCHEID) by 1137 with King Company and Item Company. Love Company was Battalion Reserve. They reported that the fighter bomber support had considerable effect on the enemy in their sector. Enemy fire was reduced considerably. Orders for the Battalion to consolidate on Objective 5 were issued by Regiment. These orders were in accordance with the plan of trying to capture bridge at WAXWEILER. At 1600, the Battalion was to jump off and seize and secure Objective 7, (the town of BELLSCHIED and high ground to the South). Due to a sudden shift in plans the Battalion remained in KRAUTSCHEID for the night and ordered to lay plans for an attack in the morning to secure Objectives 7 and 8. They reported that they had captured two tanks, 100 prisoners, four motorcycles, one 150mm gun with prime mover, one staff car, two self propelled guns, and several horses with saddles.

Authority **NND 735017**By **JW** NARA Date **12-10-01**

358th Infantry

HISTORY

23 February 1945
(Continued)

Task Force Speiss reported Objective D (high ground Southeast of NEURATH) taken at 0205 with very little resistance. However, 3 prisoners were taken. At 0910, TFS, with the Reconnaissance Troop reinforced, was assaulting the town of HELLBACH and reported it cleared at 1000. They were to wait until relieved by elements of the 1st Battalion 359, who were attached to them and moved on to Objective F (high ground at 968621). This objective was reported as clear at 11530 and thirty prisoners taken. At 1637, the task force jumped off to secure Objective G and Objective H and reported both secured at 1925, taking approximately fifty-nine prisoners. Heavy artillery fell on Task Force Speiss in the town of BERKOTH but lessening during the night.

The Regiment advanced some 4,000 yards during the day's operation and had secured all the objectives assigned to it for that day. During the afternoon they were held up for the reasons of trying to capture a bridge in tact. Again the Regiment had over-ran several rear-area installations of the enemy and by their rapid movement had kept the enemy completely off balance by not allowing him to dig in or organize a defensive position. Two more tanks were knocked out and two self propelled guns were added to the total of captured materiel. Task Force Speiss added to the total of tanks by claiming one and also one self propelled gun. Well over one hundred prisoners were taken and the Regiment suffered very light casualties. During the late evening orders were issued for the next day with the 1st Battalion, Easy Company attached, to remain in place and under no circumstances cross the River. 2nd Battalion was to be prepared to assist the 3rd Battalion or the 1st Battalion in case of a counter-attack in either of their sectors. 3rd Battalion was to secure Objective 7 (BELLSCHIED) and the high ground to the South, and Objective 8 (OBERPIERSCHIED and the high ground to the North) and patrol to MAUEL to contact elements of the 80th Division. Task Force Speiss was to be prepared, on order, to attack to secure Objective I (high ground vicinity 024625) and Objective H (PHILLIPSWEILER).

The Regiment closed the period by being disposed along the line of high ground on the West bank of the Prum just East of LAUPERATH extending to the South west to BERKOTH. 1st Battalion had Baker Company on the left and Able Company on the right; 3rd Battalion had King Company on the left and Item Company in the center and Love Company along the South protecting the Regimental right. Task Force Speiss was disposed with security detachments along our entire right flank from HELLBACH to BERKOTH, a distance of approximately 6,000 yards.

Regimental Command Post moved from BINSCHIED to ARZFELD.

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

358th Infantry

HISTORY

24 February 1945

Very little activity was reported during the period 0001 to 0800 save our own movements of placing Company E in position front of 1st Battalion as an outpost company. Company E was attached to the 1st Battalion for two reasons, one being that the 1st Battalion had only two rifle companies, and the other being that 357 did not capture the bridge in tact at WAXWEILER as was planned. As a result we were to outpost to the river and that part of WAXWEILER while 357 withdrew to their own sector. Company E was rreported in position at 0715.

There was very little activity in the Regimental sector throughout the entire day - with the exception of the 3rd Battalion attack to secure the high ground and town of NEIDEPPIERSCHIED, which was taken by Company K with little resistance. The other town of OBERPIERSCHIED was taken by Company I with the same little resistance. When these two towns were secured, Company L moved to RENGHUSCHIED where later in the day the Battalion Command Post was set-up. The battalions jumped off at 0800 and in one and three quarters hours had secured objectives some two miles distant. Only two casualties were reported, and twenty-five prisoners were taken. The surge of power the battalion showed prompted the regiment to take PHILIPPSWEILER but Division stated it was out of the sector. Task Force Spiess, in the meantime, with armed motor reconnaissance, made their way from RENGHUSCHIED to a point just a few hundred yards West of PHILIPPSWEILER to secure the high ground and put a road block at 024630, for the Regimental flank protection.

The 1st and 2nd Battalions remained in their sectors with 2nd Battalion, minus Company E, as Regimental Reserve. The 1st Battalion continued to hold their final objective which they had secured the previous day, the high ground in the vicinity of 005670 Southwest to 010657, and their Command Post in the town of SCHEIDEN. The 1st Battalion, 359 was relieved of attachment to 358 as of 2030 and assembled at 955622 and 965610 preparatory for movement to STEFFESHAUSEN, as part of the plan for the Division to move into Corps Reserve for an unknown period of time. The Engineers attached to TFS were relieved and assembled at HABSCHEID. The Regimental Command Post, with attachments, located at ARZFELD.

Early this afternoon vile rumors began to spread that the 90th Division was to be relieved by the 6th Cavalry Group and the 6th Armored Division and pulled back as Corps Reserve. This came true later in the day and we waited relief which is to come late on the 25th or 26th. Our troops are really victory flushed and can be best explained by the following story:

Company L had been in Battalion Reserve throughout the day and late this afternoon, after looking at PHILIPPSWEILER all day, decided to investigate. So, a patrol of eight men took-off and returned with five prisoners which only swelled the total of an already staggering amount since our employment around the right flank of the Division. There were other reasons why Company L investigated the town but censorship regulations prohibit their being stated here. We have also freed many French prisoners that were being held by the Germans. Many of the Regimental Headquarters would like to go on record by stating that it is only too bad we could not keep going because the Germans are reeling under our blows at this time and the fact that we haven't taken many prisoners who failed to say that the German Army is back on its heels. We have a break-through here, and no one will believe us. If only they would send some armor ahead. Even the GI Joe in the foxhole says "Why stop here?"

The Regiment closed the day feeling rather secure with Task Force Spiess strung all out on the right flank facing South, and the two battalions on a line facing East. For the first time we do not have a flank to worry about. It is hoped that the relief is quick, for it is the first time since Normandy that the 90th Div has been in Corps Reserve. It is almost too good to be true. How long will it last? Only future plans can tell us, but the one thing necessary is maintenance of armor and vehicles. Showers and hot food is needed for the "doughboys".

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

358th Infantry

HISTORY

25 February 1945

The sector was particularly quiet during the morning hours. The battalions made hourly reports that all was quiet and only occasional mortar and artillery firing was bothering their positions. This was especially evident in the K Company area and in the 1st Battalion positions.

Liaison from the 6th Cavalry Group arrived at the Regimental Command Post with information regarding the relief of 358th by his unit. The time set for the relief was 252400 February. Quartering parties were summoned from the battalions and they spent the greater part of the day searching out suitable billets for their respective battalions. At 2245 the 6th Cavalry Squadron Commander assumed command and responsibility for the sector held by the 358th Infantry.

358th Infantry

HISTORY

26 February 1945

By 0001 the Regiment was relieved entirely and the early hours of morning found the battalions closing into their assigned assembly areas. The 3rd Battalion closed in at 0030 in and around the towns of REIFF and SEIGERSBACH, 1st Battalion in and around ESCHFELD at 0100, and the 2nd Battalion closed in at SEVENIG at 0030. Division was promptly notified that the Regiment had been relieved and regiment closed-in as 0100A. The remaining hours of early morning darkness were spent in billeting the troops.

The area assigned the Regiment was particularly undesirable in that there were very few livable buildings in which the troops could at least have a roof over their heads. Almost all buildings were shot-up by artillery fire by both Boche and Yanks. As a result, the men were crowded into every available space and after using a little ingenuity on some of the wrecked houses, the men finally got themselves under some sort of cover.

An Administrative Memorandum was issued by the S-3 generally concerning an Ordnance repair team and shower schedules for the coming four days. It is the desire that all men get the opportunity to bathe and be outfitted with clean wool ODs and underwear which all need in the worst way.

358th Infantry

HISTORY

27-28 February 45

Location - present area, resting and cleaning up. Showers were located a mile West of NEIDER ETTFELD. Unnumbered Training Memorandum to all Units was issued and it concerned disciplinary drill, motors, police and sanitation, practice firing and physical conditioning.

One half hour of close order drill, review of military courtesies and inspection of arms and personnel was required. Motor stables were to be held daily and motors pooled. Short fast runs and practice marches were to be conducted to keep the troops in good fighting trim. Extensive firing of the bazooka was to be stressed as was the firing of the rifle grenade.

On the 28th of February, a reception for Colonel Bealke was held in the Command Post area. Colonel Bealke received his "Eagles" on the 21st and this was the first reception for him. All officers of the Regiment and several from Division Headquarters attended. That evening all officers and Warrant Officers attended a search-light demonstration held near the Command Post.