

9 March 1945

NARRATIVE

17 December 1944

At 2300, Battalion and Separate Unit Commanders were notified that this Regt. would be prepared for truck movement to combat by 181400A.

18 December 1944

The Regt. minus advanced party commenced entrucking by 1500 hour leaving Camp Mourmelon, France (T541648) at 1630 hour. Personnel in party (40) towed trailers, equipment and supplies in Regtl. transport.

The advanced party closed in 101st CP (P499599) at 2200 hour.

19 December 1944

The advanced party established the Regtl. CP in Champs, Belgium (P521621) three miles NNW of Bastogne (P553577) at 0130 and having posted guides at road junction Anc. Barre Champlon-Bastogne Highway and Mande St. Etienne Road (P501593), three miles NW of Bastogne, commenced to pick up our vehicles between 0300 and 0605 when last troops came in. The enemy situation at this time was obscure.

At 0830 the Regtl. Combat Team in Route Column - 1st Bn, 3rd Bn, Regtl. Hq. Co., 321st FA Bn., 2nd Bn., marched to Bastogne, the point halting on its outskirts (P554587) at 1030. At 1050 1st Bn., by Divisional order, proceeded to Noville (P538647) (See Diagram #1), four and one-half miles north of Bastogne, where, with elements of the 10th Armd Div and "B" Co., 705th Tank Destroyer Bn., it formed Combat Command "B", with 1st Bn Commanding Officer in Command. At 1400 hour the 3rd Bn marched to Foy (P573625) (See Diagram #1), between Bastogne and Noville, and established a line, "G", "I", and "H" Companies, with contact to the 501st Parachute Infantry on right and 502nd Parachute Infantry on the left. The 2nd Bn followed the 3rd Bn out of Bastogne, halting at Luxery (P563594) (See Diagram #1), where it remained in Regtl. Reserve.

The commanding ground to the East and North of Noville being in enemy hands, "G" Company attacked to the East, "A" and "B" Companies to the North at 1430 against extremely heavy artillery and small arms fire. A counter-attack against "A" and "B" Companies by a Battalion of Infantry supported by tanks (16), five of which our tank destroyers destroyed, was repulsed. By evening, the objectives not having been reached, a perimeter defense of the town was initiated.

During the night many attempts by the enemy to force an entrance in the CIR were made. His method was to employ two to three tanks with accompanying infantry as assault teams. During this period two enemy tanks were destroyed and others immobilized by rocket launcher fire. Artillery and tank fire continued heavy during the night.

19 December 1944 (Cont'd)

At 2130 two Platoons of "C" Company, 705th TD Bn. were attached to the regiment. Both were sent to Foy with one platoon being instructed to repair to 1st Bn as soon as practicable. Four (4) PWs were taken this date.

20 December 1944

At 0715 the TD Platoon at Foy, attached to 1st Bn, moved to Noville.

At 0800 the 3rd Bn line was attacked, "I" and "H" Companies, by an estimated two companies supported by three (3) tanks, and "G" Company by one (1) company and three (3) tanks. At 1000 the 2nd Bn (less one platoon "F" Co security for 321st FA Bn) moved forward along the Foy-Bastogne Road being ordered at 1100 to take that portion of the 3rd Battalion's line east of the highway and inclusive of the station (P583607) (See Diagram #2) at RR crossing Foy-Bizery Road and Bastogne-Bourcey RR.

At 1030 the 3rd Bn withdrew to the high ground immediately south of Foy and stopped the enemy attack.

In Noville enemy teams consisting of five (5) tanks with accompanying infantry had attacked during the morning, at one time bringing the town under attack from three sides. The armored unit being unable to fully maintain their tanks, three of them were manned by 1st Bn..

The unit having been isolated from the remainder of our forces by enemy action and with ammunition and manpower waning, the command was ordered to withdraw to and through the Bastogne defense.

At 1330 the command moved from Noville towards Foy along the main road, the advance guard consisting of "C" Company and three (3) tanks, the rear guard, "B" Company and four (4) TD's, the tanks with "C" Company being destroyed at an enemy road block north of Foy, the column swung to the right through the fields, entering Foy further south where the 3rd Bn had taken considerable portion of the town in an attack which had coincided with the withdrawal of Combat Command "B". Starting at 1400, this attack eventually cleared Recogne, taking Foy and ground 200 yards to the north.

The 2nd Bn, failing to take the station (P583607) (See Diagram #2), made patrol contact with the 501st Precht Inf some 1000 yds to the south.

The 1st Bn constituted the Regtl Reserve at Luxery with one (1) platoon of "A" Company forming a strong point (592596) behind 2nd Bn and the 501st PI on the RR. They had suffered casualties of thirteen (13) officers and 199 enlisted men while being part of the command that destroyed thirty one (31) armored vehicles and over fifty per cent (50%) of the 304th Infantry Regiment at Noville. The armored vehicles were identified as equipment of the 2nd Regt., 2nd Pz. Div. Eighty four (84) PWs were taken this date.

21 December 1944

At 0330 the 3rd Bn was attacked. At 0600 "G" Company moved to high ground south of Recogne (P571635) (See Diagram #3) In spite of the use of all Battalion reserves, the enemy continued to press his attack. The Bn withdrew to high ground and the enemy tank and infantry attack was stopped.

At 0830 the 2nd Bn located an estimated two (2) enemy platoons in the vicinity of P573607 (See Diagram #3). The 1st Bn was ordered to reduce this group. An intense small arms and bayonet fight ensued, the 1st Bn killing fifty (50) and taking thirty five (35) PWs, the remainder being killed or captured by the 2nd

21 December 1944 (Cont'd)

Battalions of the 501st and 506th. Firm contact was now established between the two regiments; the RR station being jointly held after 1730. Enemy activity now decreased noticeably.

22 December 1944

Due to the lack of enemy activity, vigorous patrolling was conducted by the 2nd and 3rd Bns resulting in the location of remunerative mortar and artillery targets in the vicinity of Recogne (P570634), Foy (P573625) and Bois Jacques (P535612) (See Diagram #4).

23 December 1944

Being the first day of clear weather since arrival of the regiment, the Air Force flew many missions, some on information reported from our forward units. The enemy was quiet.

At 1900 the 1st Bn was placed on one-half hour alert for the remainder of the night due to enemy attacks in the 327th area to the southwest. Nine (9) PWs were taken today.

24 December 1944

At 0830 the 2nd Bn was attacked from Bois Jacques by an enemy company. This company having as its mission reconnaissance in force, attacked along the entire battalion front and was destroyed by 1100 from which time this and 3rd Bn sectors stayed quiet for the remainder of the period. 3 PWs were taken today.

25 December 1944

At 0525 the 1st Bn was placed on one-half hour alert due to attack in 502nd PI sector in the northwest. At 0845 they moved from Luxery west to Savy (P546599) where they remained in reserve. At 1530 the Regtl CP moved from Bastogne to Luxery. No offensive enemy action.

26 December 1944

No offensive enemy action. Regiment patrolled as usual.

27 December 1944

Regiment defending line high ground south of Recogne-Foy and along Foy-Bourcy Road as it cuts through woods inclusive of RR station. 3rd Bn inclusive of Bastogne-Meville highway to left, 2nd Bn exclusive of highway and inclusive of RR station. 1st Bn in reserve at Savy. The enemy was quiet.

28 December 1944

Regimental sector same and quiet. Weather foggy. At 1800 the 1st Bn due to attacks in 502nd PI sector was placed on thirty minute alert.

29 December 1944

Regimental sector same. Little enemy activity. Weather being clear, the

29 December 1944 Cont'd:

Air Force flew several missions against Noville, Foy, and Recogne which were observed and results reported by our OPs.

30 December 1944

At 0710 enemy planes bombed Regtl CP area causing no casualties. Enemy artillery light. Our Air Force flew many missions to north of regimental sector.

31 December 1944

Sector same. Enemy very quiet.

9 March 1945

NARRATIVE

17 December 1944

At 2300, Battalion and Separate Unit Commanders were notified that this Regt. would be prepared for truck movement to combat by 181400A.

18 December 1944

The Regt. minus advanced party commenced entrucking by 1500 hour leaving Camp Mourmelon, France (T541648) at 1630 hour. Personnel in party (40) towed trailers, equipment and supplies in Regtl. transport.
The advanced party closed in 101st CP (P499599) at 2200 hour.

19 December 1944

The advanced party established the Regtl. CP in Champs, Belgium (P521621) three miles NNW of Bastogne (P553577) at 0130 and having posted guides at road junction Inc. Barre Champlon-Bastogne Highway and Mande St. Etienne Road (P501593), three miles NW of Bastogne, commenced to pick up our vehicles between 0300 and 0605 when last troops came in. The enemy situation at this time was obscure.

At 0830 the Regtl. Combat Team in Route Column - 1st Bn, 3rd Bn, Regtl. Hq. Co., 321st FA Bn., 2nd Bn., marched to Bastogne, the point halting on its outskirts (P554587) at 1030. At 1050 1st Bn., by Divisional order, proceeded to Noville (P553647) (See Diagram #1), four and one-half miles north of Bastogne, where, with elements of the 10th Armd Div and "B" Co., 705th Tank Destroyer Bn., it formed Combat Command "B", with 1st Bn Commanding Officer in Command. At 1400 hour the 3rd Bn marched to Foy (P573625) (See Diagram #1), between Bastogne and Noville, and established a line, "G", "I", and "H" Companies, with contact to the 501st Parachute Infantry on right and 502nd Parachute Infantry on the left. The 2nd Bn followed the 3rd Bn out of Bastogne, halting at Luxery (P563594) (See Diagram #1), where it remained in Regtl. Reserve.

The commanding ground to the East and North of Noville being in enemy hands, "G" Company attacked to the East, "A" and "B" Companies to the North at 1430 against extremely heavy artillery and small arms fire. A counter-attack against "A" and "B" Companies by a Battalion of Infantry supported by tanks (16), five of which our tank destroyers destroyed, was repulsed. By evening, the objectives not having been reached, a perimeter defense of the town was initiated.

During the night many attempts by the enemy to force an entrance in the LIR were made. His method was to employ two to three tanks with accompanying infantry as assault teams. During this period two enemy tanks were destroyed and others immobilized by rocket launcher fire. Artillery and tank fire continued heavy during the night.

19 December 1944 (Cont'd)

At 2130 two Platoons of "C" Company, 705th TD Bn. were attached to the regiment. Both were sent to Foy with one platoon being instructed to repair to 1st Bn as soon as practicable. Four (4) PWs were taken this date.

20 December 1944

At 0715 the TD Platoon at Foy, attached to 1st Bn, moved to Noville.

At 0800 the 3rd Bn line was attacked, "I" and "H" Companies, by an estimated two companies supported by three (3) tanks, and "G" Company by one (1) company and three (3) tanks. At 1000 the 2nd Bn (less one platoon "F" Co security for 321st FA Bn) moved forward along the Foy-Bastogne Road being ordered at 1100 to take that portion of the 3rd Battalion's line east of the highway and inclusive of the station (P583607) (See Diagram #2) at RR crossing Foy-Bizery Road and Bastogne-Bourcey RR.

At 1030 the 3rd Bn withdrew to the high ground immediately south of Foy and stopped the enemy attack.

In Noville enemy teams consisting of five (5) tanks with accompanying infantry had attacked during the morning, at one time bringing the town under attack from three sides. The armored unit being unable to fully maintain their tanks, three of them were manned by 1st Bn..

The unit having been isolated from the remainder of our forces by enemy action and with ammunition and manpower waning, the command was ordered to withdraw to and through the Bastogne defense.

At 1330 the command moved from Noville towards Foy along the main road, the advance guard consisting of "C" Company and three (3) tanks, the rear guard, "B" Company and four (4) TD's, the tanks with "C" Company being destroyed at an enemy road block north of Foy, the column swung to the right through the fields, entering Foy further south where the 3rd Bn had taken considerable portion of the town in an attack which had coincided with the withdrawal of Combat Command "B". Starting at 1400, this attack eventually cleared Recogne, taking Foy and ground 200 yards to the north.

The 2nd Bn, failing to take the station (P583607) (See Diagram #2), made patrol contact with the 501st Frcht Inf some 1000 yds to the south.

The 1st Bn constituted the Regtl Reserve at Luxery with one (1) platoon of "A" Company forming a strong point (592596) behind 2nd Bn and the 501st PI on the RR. They had suffered casualties of thirteen (13) officers and 199 enlisted men while being part of the command that destroyed thirty one (31) armored vehicles and over fifty per cent (50%) of the 304th Infantry Regiment at Noville. The armored vehicles were identified as equipment of the 2nd Regt., 2nd Pz. Div. Eighty four (84) PWs were taken this date.

21 December 1944

At 0330 the 3rd Bn was attacked. At 0600 "C" Company moved to high ground south of Recogne (P571635) (See Diagram #3) In spite of the use of all Battalion reserves, the enemy continued to press his attack. The Bn withdrew to high ground and the enemy tank and infantry attack was stopped.

At 0830 the 2nd Bn located an estimated two (2) enemy platoons in the vicinity of P578607 (See Diagram #3). The 1st Bn was ordered to reduce this group. An intense small arms and bayonet fight ensued, the 1st Bn killing fifty (50) and taking thirty five (35) PWs, the remainder being killed or captured by the 2nd

21 December 1944 (Cont'd)

Battalions of the 501st and 506th. Firm contact was now established between the two regiments; the RR station being jointly held after 1730. Enemy activity now decreased noticeably.

22 December 1944

Due to the lack of enemy activity, vigorous patrolling was conducted by the 2nd and 3rd Bns resulting in the location of remunerative mortar and artillery targets in the vicinity of Recogne (P570634), Foy (P573625) and Bois Jacques (P535612) (See Diagram #4).

23 December 1944

Being the first day of clear weather since arrival of the regiment, the Air Force flew many missions, some on information reported from our forward units. The enemy was quiet.

At 1900 the 1st Bn was placed on one-half hour alert for the remainder of the night due to enemy attacks in the 327th area to the southwest. Nine (9) PWs were taken today.

24 December 1944

At 0830 the 2nd Bn was attacked from Bois Jacques by an enemy company. This company having as its mission reconnaissance in force, attacked along the entire battalion front and was destroyed by 1100 from which time this and 3rd Bn sectors stayed quiet for the remainder of the period. 3 PWs were taken today.

25 December 1944

At 0525 the 1st Bn was placed on one-half hour alert due to attack in 502nd PI sector in the northwest. At 0845 they moved from Luxery west to Savy (P546599) where they remained in reserve. At 1530 the Regtl CP moved from Bastogne to Luxery. No offensive enemy action.

26 December 1944

No offensive enemy action. Regiment patrolled as usual.

27 December 1944

Regiment defending line high ground south of Recogne-Foy and along Foy-Bourcy Road as it cuts through woods inclusive of RR station. 3rd Bn inclusive of Bastogne-Meville highway to left, 2nd Bn exclusive of highway and inclusive of RR station. 1st Bn in reserve at Savy. The enemy was quiet.

28 December 1944

Regimental sector same and quiet. Weather foggy. At 1300 the 1st Bn due to attacks in 502nd PI sector was placed on thirty minute alert.

29 December 1944

Regimental sector same. Little enemy activity. Weather being clear, the

29 December 1944 Cont'd:

Air Force flew several missions against Noville, Foy, and Recogne which were observed and results reported by our OPs.

30 December 1944

At 0710 enemy planes bombed Regtl CP area causing no casualties. Enemy artillery light. Our Air Force flew many missions to north of regimental sector.

31 December 1944

Sector same. Enemy very quiet.