

HEADQUARTERS 506TH PARACHUTE INFANTRY  
Office of the Regimental Commander

APO 472, U. S. Army  
14 March 1945

SUBJECT: After Action Report and Critique for the Month of January.

TO : Commanding General, 101st Airborne Division, APO 472, U.S. Army

1. Transmitted herewith is After Action Report of this regiment for the month of January 1945. The critique of the operation follows:

2. In the attack through the Bois Jacques, which this regiment supported by fire, there was lack of coordination of effort. This was particularly noticeable to this regiment's front because of the fact that the attacking regiment was supposed to have cleared this area of Germans. Further check revealed that this was caused by lack of coordination with the armored unit on that regiment's right. This merely brings out the importance of flank security.

3. In an attack which this regiment captured Rachamps, supporting artillery could not be used because the system of relaying fire data broke down. It is believed that the fire direction center should have been far enough to the front so as to preclude the use of relaying observations and adjustments.

4. On the regiment's move from north to south by truck, 10-ton trailers were provided. These prime movers had only a rear-wheel drive and the journey over the ice and snow was one fraught with many tedious delays. Many of these vehicles also had no chains. The slightest incline would cause them to become immobile.

5. Prior to an attack which will culminate with the objective in a wooded area, arrangements should be made with engineer troops for cutting of logs for covering of new positions. This regiment sustained heavy casualties due to lack of cover on individual shelters.

6. Control and coordination of attack with armored units on the flank was found to be difficult. This may have been due to a lack of definite orders as to responsibility.

7. When enemy armor is encountered tank destroyers should be more aggressive and certain vehicles should work with the forward elements of the infantry while still maintaining their antitank defense in depth with reserve vehicles.

CLASSIFICATION	
<b>CANCELLED</b>	
BY AUTHORITY OF THE ADJUTANT GENERAL	R. F. SEK 506th Parachute Infantry Commanding General
<i>W. H. Curran</i> COUNSELLING COMMITTEE	19 Feb 46

*R. F. Sek*  
14776  
Infantry *master*

3101-1NF(506)03

~~SECRET~~  
HEADQUARTERS 506TH PARACHUTE INFANTRY  
A.P.O. 472, U. S. Army

12 March 1945

N A R R A T I V E

1 January 1945

At 0001 both sides welcomed the New Year with artillery and mortar. The remainder of the period was quiet.

2 January 1945

At 0600 1st Bn started to march from Savy (P546599) to 2nd Bn where they were to take over the latter's positions and secure the left flank as the 2nd Bn moved forward (see Diagram #1). The column being attacked in Luzery by enemy planes (3 or 9) in which attack three casualties were sustained.

At 0930 the 2nd Bn attacked through the Bois Jacques (P585612) to the Foy-Margeret Road, 1400 yards to the north. Little resistance was encountered until the objective and area some 200 yards to the south was reached. Resistance was strong initially, but of short duration. At 1530 the objective was taken. F Co in contact, A Co, E Co center, D Co on right making patrol contact with 501st PI at 2105. Seven PWs were taken. (See diagram # 1)

3 January 1945

At 1500 2nd Bn having taken over 1st Bn's positions, the latter started marching toward Savy reverting to Division Reserve at 1730, closing in at 1800. Enemy Arty, Mortar and Nebelwerfer fire was on the uptrend. 2 PWs were taken this date.

4 January 1945

The Division having decided to withdraw to the old MLR along Foy-Bizory Road (P576619 E to P583607), this was accomplished; the 2nd Bn being held by 501 PI at 2130 and repairing to a Regt reserve area in woods north of Luzery and west of Bastogne-Noville Highway (P-568611).

3rd Bn remained in its sector.

5 January 1945

At the commencement of this period the 3rd Bn manned the line south Recogne-Foy, 2nd Bn was in Regtl Reserve, and 1st Bn at Savy in Division reserve.

During the afternoon 2nd Bn displaced 2000 yds west to another wooded reserve area (P558620) closing at 1509.

The 1st Bn moved from Savy at 1840 in order to relieve the 3rd Bn of the 502 PI on that portion of the MLR running southwest from north of Monaville (P548641) to the 3rd Bn 506 PI south of Recogne (P566630).



6 January 1945

1st Bn reld 3rd Bn 502 PI at 0025. The day was quiet with the units strengthening their position on the lines by improvement of positions by digging and re-location of troops.

7 January 1945

The Regtl position remained the same. The Fazene Woods (P566647) were patrolled intensively.

8 January 1945

The day passed with little incident, save an extremely heavy snow storm.

9 January 1945

At 0500 the relief of our 3rd Bn by the 3rd Bn 501st commenced. At 0903 when completed, the 3rd Bn moved to forward assembly area in woods south of Sonne Fontaine (P557623). At 1018 the Regtl CP closed in the 1st Bn CP at Sonne Fontaine (P556626). At 1100 the regiment with the task force Cherry of the 10th Armd Div attached, attacked after an artillery preparation, with the mission of cleaning the Fazene Woods to the draw southwest Vaux (P570652), an area some 2500 yards in length and 1000 yards in breadth. (See Diagram #2) The 2nd Bn was base Bn and at 1100 moved into the Fazene Woods followed by 3rd Bn at 1110 which, passing through the rear tock position on the left. At 1110 E Co took an enemy platoon prisoner. This was the last enemy encountered until the 3rd Bn liquidated four small enemy outposts at 1300. The 1st Bn, having been passed through by 502 PI which was attacking the Assins Woods (P554648) to the left of the Fazene Woods, started moving behind 2nd Bn as Regtl Res at 1345. The Regtl objective was reached by 1630, after having recd heavy artillery, mortar and tank fire. From 1300 on the enemy shelled our positions. 39 PWs were taken this date.

10 January 1945

The enemy artillery and other fire increased markedly around 0230, at which time the enemy combat patrol of 20 men supported by two platoons attacked our positions (P567646) being repelled at cost to them.

The 326th Engrs, as in the past, cut a considerable amount of logs, which were used by the regiment as foxhole covers.

At 0830 the 1st Bn moved 1300 yards to the southwest (P560632) due to especially heavy artillery in their area. At 1430, it having been determined to withdraw to the old IIR with the 1st Bn taking their old sector, 2nd Bn going into their previous position, and 3rd Bn going into Division Reserve in Savy, withdrawal was commenced. At 1730 the 1st Bn closed, the 2nd and 3rd Bns leaving at 1830, reached their new areas at 2300. Casualties from enemy artillery the previous night and early morning was 126. 4 PWs were taken in today's operations.

11 January 1945

The Regtl CP leaving Sonne Fontaine, closed in Hemroulle (P533602) on the Champs-Bastogne Road at 1045. 1st Bn patrolled extensively. Enemy fires light.



12 January 1945

At 1500 the 3rd Bn left Savy to relieve the 3rd Bn of the 327th GI in the Recogne-Foy defensive sector (See Diagram #2), relief completed at 2115. Enemy artillery remained light.

13 JANUARY 1945

Regtl CP closed 2000 yards west of Luzery (P566604) on the Bastogne-Foy Road. E Co, having been attached to 3rd Bn, moved during the morning to their area. At 0900 E Co attacked Foy (P578625) meeting increased resistance as they entered the town from the west. (See Diagram #3) At 1015 I Co attacked the town from the S along the Foy-Bastogne Road. By 1100 both Cos were well into the town, an approximate 23 prisoners having been taken. At 1113 F Co was attached to 3rd Bn and ordered to take over H Co's positions just south of Foy (P574619), the latter moving to Foy to assist E and I Co in the attack. The town was cleared by 1630. E Co released to 2nd Bn at 1730. At 1800 the defense of the town was G Co on old MIR, H, I and F Co in perimeter defense with F Co in contact 501st PI (See Diagram #3). Shelling of town continued. 69 PWs were taken in this operation.

14 January 1945

The enemy attacking with 6 or 7 tanks with accompanying infantry at 0415, our force under continued pressure withdrew to old MIR at 0600 to reorganize. The 2nd Bn was alerted at this time and moved to a line extending from 3rd Bn CP to Foy Road in rear of 3rd Bn positions. (P572619). At 0900 CCB 10th Armd Div passed through our lines to Foy.

The 2nd Bn at 1220 assembled and started moving towards Cobru (P579644) at 1300. At 1300 the 1st Bn moved forward from the MIR some 2500 yds through the Fazene Woods to the high ground overlooking Cobru. (P567646). The 3rd Bn followed to the 1st Bn, stopping with their lead elements 1000 yards past the MIR in vicinity of Fazene Lake (P563643). Their mission being to contact our 1st Bn and the 17th A/B Div, the former solidly, the latter by patrol. Both 3rd and 1st Bns were in position by 1500.

The 2nd Bn having received some Arty and mortar fire on entering Cobru, heavier fire in attacking the high wooded hill to the E of that town and S of Noville (P588646). Their final dispositions at 1800 were E Co on S edge of Noville, with D and F Cos on left and right on the high ground. Contact was continuous across Regtl and adjacent unit front. 5 PWs were accounted for this date.

15 January 1945

At 0600 the 1st Bn 501 PI being attacked they occupied woods south of Sonne Fontaine (P560623). At 1030 1st Bn attacked from Fazene Woods 1500 yds across open fields seizing the wooded ground directly NW Cobru. (P580652). Formation: A, B, and C Co echeloned to right rear. Simultaneously, the 2nd Bn attacked Noville taking and establishing a perimeter defense of the town. The 3rd Bn occupying the old position vacated by 1st Bn in the Fazene Woods, theirs was taken by 3rd Bn 501st PI.

The Regtl CP, now moving, closed in Recogne (P568634) at 1400 hour. 17 PWs were taken in today's operations.



16 January 1945

At 0930 the Bns attacked with objectives along the line Neuf-Moulins (P613636) 4700 yards NE of Noville along Bastogne-Foy-Houffalize highway, to Rachamps, (P607668) 2400 yards along and 1300 yards east, same highway. A reserve was to be established in Wicourt. (P590638). A considerable amount of open ground covered in the advance with objectives being reached at 1800 hour; 3rd Bn in Neuf-Moulins area, 2nd Bn Rachamps, 1st Bn high ground between the two, and 3rd Bn 501st in Wicourt (See Diagram #3). The enemy was particularly sensitive to the loss of Rachamps. Attached for this movement were A Co, 811th TD Bn, B Co 705th TD Bn, and a Recon Co of the 705th TD Bn.

Regtl CP closed in Vaux (P581659) at 1505. 88 PWs were taken in today's operations.

17 January 1945

Bns in same position sectors quiet. At 1315 3rd Bn 501st PI reverted to their regt. At 1950, 17th A/B Div started relieving 1st and 3rd Bns - completed by 2110. At 2130 2nd Bn was ordered back to Regtl bivouac to be established in woods south of Rocogne (P565626) and Sonne Fontaine (P558620). All Bns closed by 2400. 5 PWs were taken today.

18 January 1945

At 0800 Bns left assembly areas by truck for Le Petite Rosiere area (P457438) 6 miles south of Sibret, where they established in Corps reserve. Regtl CP left Vaux, closed in Le Petite Rosiere at 1000. At 1700 the Regt was placed on alert for move to South to 7th Army sector.

19 January 1945

Remained in Le Petite Rosiere. All units alerted and ready for move. Advance party left for vicinity Sarrebourg at 0800.

20 January 1945

At 0900 troops started loading in ten (10) ton trucks for move. By 1200 all trucks had cleared IP P444480.

21 January 1945

At 0030 Regtl CP opened in Dimeringen Wq 599380. At 1350 the 1st troops arrived. The convoy was badly broken up due to road conditions. By 2230 all but two (2) trucks and one medical vehicle had closed in their areas. The 1st Bn located in WEISSLINGEN (Wq646357), 2nd Bn in WALDHAMBACH (Wq620365), 3rd Bn in DIMERINGEN. Div Reserve in same locations.

22 January 1945 to  
25 January 1945

During this period the regiment remained in Division reserve in the same locations.

26 January 1945

At 1030 the Regt moved by truck convoy to WICKERSHEIM (Wq852205). The Regtl CP opened here at 1330. All units had closed by 1445 with 1st Bn in Wq812213



26 January 1945 Cont'd:

2nd Bn in Wq845217, 3rd Bn in GEISWILLER (Wq829210). Regt in Div Reserve.

27 January 1945

Division remained in Division Reserve.

28 January 1945

At 1245 3rd Bn moved by marching to LIXHAUSEN (Wq864217) closing there at 1440. At 1340 1st Bn moved to BOSSENDORF (Wq870202) closing at 1440.

29 January 1945

Troop location same. Regiment remained in Division reserve.

30 January 1945

At 1300 2nd Bn moved to GRASSENDORF closing there at 1515. The Regtl CP moved to ETTENDORF (Wq889238) opening there at 1615.

31 January 1945

At 1200 A and F Btry of 81st AA Bn and C Co 807th TD Bn, minus 3rd Plt, were attached to Regt in preparation for relief of 409th Inf Regt, 103rd Div.. At 1800 the 1st and 3rd Bns started moving by truck to forward positions in vicinity of FFAFFENOFFEN and NIEDERMODERN. By 2145 Bns had completed relief of 409th Inf on the line in sector from Wq899270 to Wq928270 with 1st Bn on left and 3rd Bn on right. 2nd Bn remained in Regtl reserve in GRASSENDORF.

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Office of the Regimental Commander

APO 472, U. S. Army  
. 14 March 1945

SUBJECT: After Action Report and Critique for the Month of February.

TO : Commanding General, 101st Airborne Division, APO 472, U.S. Army

1. Transmitted herewith is After Action Report of this regiment for the month of February 1945. The critique of the operation follows:

2. Action during the month of February consisted principally of extensive and continued patrolling. It was found that the most successful patrols should be given 48 hours to plan their work. Supporting weapons, including mortar and artillery, were found to be most desirable.

3. On an inactive front extensive patrolling should take place. Each battalion should have at least three patrols briefed and prepared to operate on call. This should include at least one of platoon or company size capable of operating as a raiding party. Further training in large size raiding was found to be needed.

4. The method of making a direct exchange of clean underwear, socks, and combat clothing article for article was found to greatly decrease the excessive amounts of loss of this type of equipment.

5. The regiment in moving from Alsace to Mourmelon were loaded on the French box cars with straw on the floor. This proved to be the most efficient and comfortable method of transporting troops thus far encountered.

*R. F. Sink*

R. F. SINK  
Colonel, 506th Parach. Infantry  
Commanding

DECLASSIFIED  
E.O. 12958, Dir. 5800.9, Sept. 27, 1958  
EXEMPTED by *[Signature]* date *2-14-72*



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HEADQUARTERS 506TH PARACHUTE INFANTRY  
A.P.O. 472, U. S. Army

12 March 1945

NARRATIVE

1 February 1945

At this time the Regt was defending line in PFAFFENHOFFEN - NIDERMODERN AREA with 1st Bn and 3rd Bn on line and 2nd Bn in Regtl Res in GRASSENDORF. Bn defense was set up with one rifle company on OPIR and 2 rifle companies plus attached units on MIR. 1st Bn on the left, 2nd Bn on the right (see Diagram #1). Enemy units previously identified on our front were elements of 937 Inf Regt of the 245 VG Div. Very quiet sector with only sporadic Arty fire. No enemy contacts except by patrol.

2 & 3 February 1945

Sector remained quiet. No contact with enemy except by patrols. 1 PW and deserter captured.

4 February 1945

At 0240 a combat patrol of 22 EM and one O moved north from B Co area (Q908278) on the OPIR to Q908284 but were forced to withdraw due to heavy enemy MG and mortar fire.

At 1200 orders were recd for relief of Regt in this sector and asgd a new sector in the HAGEUNAU area (R040243). Relief of the 1st and 3rd Bns by the 409th Inf Regt started at 2200.

5 February 1945

Relief of the 1st and 3rd Bns was completed by 0055 and the 1st Bn moved back to BOSSENDORF (Q870203) and the 3rd Bn moved to LIXHAUSEN (Q862217).

At 1330 the Regt started moving by truck convoy for HAGEUNAU. A forward CP was opened at HARTHAUSEN (R995210) with 313th Inf until this unit was relieved. The Regtl CP opened in WALK CHATEAU (R023216) at 1630. At 1700 relief of units of 313th on the line was started and completed by 2200 without incident (See diagram #2). The 1st Bn on the left, 2nd Bn on the right, 3rd Bn in Regtl Res in the outskirts of HAGEUNAU. The Regt had attached units as follows: A & F Btry 81st AA Bn, C Co 307 TD Bn (- 1 Plt), A Co and 1st Plt of D Co 47th TK Bn..

6 to 11 February 1945

During this period the Regt remained in the defense of HAGEUNAU, conducting vigorous patrolling, both combat and Recon, across the Moder river. Reinforcements were recd. The Regt Res Bn followed a limited training schedule of weapons firing, training films, and critiques on previous operations. 2 PWs captured this period.

12 February 1945

At this time the Div sector was reorganized with each Regt defending a



sector with a reinforced Bn, 1 Bn in Regtl Res, and 1 Bn Div Res. At 1800 relief of the 1st Bn was started and Bn moved out to HOCHSTETT (R959200) (See diagram #2). H Co was attached to 2nd Bn taking over sector on Bn's left flank. A Btry 81st AA Bn and C Co 705th TD Bn were released to Div control.

13 February 1945

The 1st Bn closed in HOCHSTETT in Div Res at 0115. Enemy Arty and mortar fire was increased for period.

15 to 17 February 1945

Regt remained in same position. Contd Recon and combat patrols across Moder. Res Bns following training schedule. 7 PWs (Polish Deserters) captured from 2nd Co 103rd Inf Regt, 47th Inf Div.

18 February 1945

At 0100 a 9 man patrol crossed the Moder and captured 3 PWs. 2 were from 2nd Co 103rd Regt, 47th VG and 1 from 1st Co 257th Engr Bn, 257th Div. The patrol suffered 4 casualties from Schu mines and enemy mortar fire.

At 1300 the 1st Bn moved from HOCHSTETT closing in Regtl Res area at HAGEUNAU at 1440. At 1500 the 3rd Bn with B Co attached started relief of the 2nd Bn. Relief was completed at 2245 and the 2nd Bn closed in Div Res at HOCHSTETT at 2330.

19 to 22 February 1945

Regt remained in defense of HAGEUNAU contacting enemy only by patrol. Res Bns following Trng Schedule. At 2200 22 Feb 45 elements of the 143rd Div started moving into HAGEUNAU in preparation for relieving Regt.

23 February 1945

At 1300 the Regt started moving out by truck convoy to rear assembly area in vicinity of SAVERNE (Q726158) and relief of 3rd Bn was started by 143rd Inf which was completed by 2050 with all units closing in rear assembly area by 2330. Regtl CP located in MARMOUTIER (Q734104), 1st Bn in HAEGEN (Q709218), 2nd Bn in MARMOUTIER (Q740102), 3rd Bn in SCHWEBWILLER (Q711108).

24 February 1945

Day spent in preparation for move to Base Camp.

25 February 1945

All units moved out by truck convoy for SAVERNE at 0830 to entrain for move to Base Camp. Train departed from SAVERNE at 1100.

26 February 1945

Regt arrived at Base Camp, CAMP MOURMELON, FRANCE at 0500 and closed in Regtl area by 0600.



AFTER ACTION REPORT FOR MONTH OF APRIL

N A R R A T I V E

On 30 March 1945, this Regiment, stationed at CAMP MOURMELON, France, undergoing unit training, was alerted for a possible move Sunday, 1 April 1945, somewhere in the Bonn-Cologne Area. The period from 30 March 1945 to 1 April 1945 was spent in making preparations for the move to the forward area.

On 1 April 1945 the Regiment received orders to move to the division traffic control point at ERALENTZ, Germany, being assigned to the XXII Corps, 15th U. S. Army, and on 2 April the advance party left CAMP MOURMELON, France, for the assigned sector.

The Regiment left CAMP MOURMELON, France, via 10-ton truck/trailers, at 0320B 3 April 1945 with a Regimental strength of 117 Officers and 2006 Enlisted Men and by 03250B the Regimental CP had been opened in GOMR, Germany (F288788), and units closed in with 1st Bn. at NIEVENHEIM (F326800), 2nd Bn. at MORREM (F356732), 3rd Bn. at MORR (F285844), and Service Company at WIDDESHOVEN (F268768). A reconnaissance was also made this date of the sector to be occupied by the Regiment along the West bank of the RHINE RIVER from F299379 South to F382751 upon the relief of the 387th Inf. Regt., 97th Inf. Division by 050900B, with the missions of (a) Maintaining contact with the 327th Glider Infantry on the left and 504th Parachute Infantry, 82nd Abn. Division, on the right, (b) Maintaining Military Government in assigned sector and (c) Be prepared to conduct reconnaissance and/or combat patrols across the RHINE RIVER. The 33rd Cav. Group, 20th Armored Division, now in this sector, was attached to the Regiment and completed relief of 387th Infantry.

On 4 April 1945, 2nd Bn. with D Btry, 31st AA Bn. (40 - 68 EM) attached, closed in their positions on the West bank of the RHINE RIVER on a line from F339859 South to F382751 and the 3rd Bn., with F Btry, 31st AA Bn. (40 - 66 EM) attached, closed in their positions on the West bank of the RHINE on a line from F359359 North to F299379 contacting the 327th Glider Infantry at that point. The 321st FA Bn. was in direct support of the Regiment and the Reconnaissance Platoon 101st Abn Division was attached and patrolling the area in rear of the line battalions. The 33rd Cavalry Group, 20th Armored Division, after relief by organic units was relieved from attachment 4 April and moved to a rear area.

4 - 10 APRIL 1945

During this period numerous reconnaissance patrols were sent across the RHINE RIVER and a total of 5 PWs were taken. Defense and Military Government of the area was maintained and the Displaced Persons Centers were consolidated. On 10 April the Service Company moved from WIDDESHOVEN (F268768) to BROICH (F290775).



11 APRIL 1945

On this date reports indicated friendly tanks and infantry units moving rapidly North and West near WANN (F550500), East of the RAINE RIVER. The Reconnaissance Platoon, 101st Abn Div. was relieved from attached to the Regiment.

12 - 15 APRIL 1945

During this period reconnaissance patrols and one Raiding party consisting of 7 officers and 125 enlisted men (A Company) were sent across the RAINE RIVER. On 12 April first Battalion relieved Third Battalion on the line, the 3rd Bn. closing in Regimental Reserve at NIEVENHAIN (F326800). Memorial Services in honor of THE PRESIDENT OF THE UNITED STATES were held by all units at 141000B. Firing South of the 83rd Grid line was restricted to the Regiment after 142000 and patrol contact by boat under a white flag with friendly forces on the East bank of the RAINE RIVER would be initiated upon orders.

16 APRIL 1945

Friendly units were sighted in BAUMBERG (F4080) at 161503B and a liaison party from the 97th Infantry Division reported to the Regimental CP at 161400B, reporting elements of their Division halting in BAUMBERG on the East bank of the RAINE. This action cleared the East bank of the RAINE in the 2nd Bn. area as far North as F390805.

17 - 18 APRIL 1945

The Regiment was notified that elements of the 94th Infantry Division would effect relief of our front line battalions between 170700B and 170800B. At 171428B contact was made with friendly elements on the East bank of the RAINE RIVER by our patrol crossing RAINE under a white flag. Relief of the 1st Battalion by the 1st Battalion, 503rd Infantry Regiment, 94th Infantry Division was completed and 1st Bn. assembled in WECKHOVEN (F270850). Relief of 2nd Battalion by 2nd Battalion, 503rd Infantry Regiment was completed and 2nd Battalion assembled in HORREM (F355785) and DORLAGEN (F370765). All supporting and attached units were relieved from Regimental control and responsibility.

The period of 18-20 April was spent in small unit training. During this period Military Government control in the area passed to the 94th Infantry Division. Unit was alerted to move to 7th Army area and the advance party left 20 April for DARMSTADT.

The Regiment moved by truck and rail to the JAGSTHAUSEN (L260805) area. Regtl. Hq. Company departed 1125 21 April and closed in JAGSTHAUSEN 1145 24 April. 1st Bn. departed 1730 21 April and closed at OBERKESSACH (L275867) 1430 24 April. 2nd Bn. and 3rd Bn. departed 1100 22 April. 2nd Bn. closed in WIDDERN (L224811) at 1430 25 April. 3rd Bn. closed in ROSSACH (L269850) at 1545 25 April. Unit Dispositions: Regtl. Hq. Co. at JAGSTHAUSEN (L260805), Service Company at OLMHAUSEN (L242807), 1st Bn. at OBERKESSACH (L275867), 2nd Bn. at WIDDERN (L224811), 3rd Bn. (-) at ROSSACH (L269850), G, H, and I Companies at UNTERKESSACH (L256344)



Military Government was established in assigned sector.

25 - 30 APRIL 1945

The regiment with A and B Btrys, 81st AA-AT Bn., Company C, 326th Abn Engineers and 321st Gli. FA Bn. were alerted for movement to forward area of VI Corps on 25 April. Advance party left for ULM Area 26 April. Regiment with attachments less D Btry, 81st AA-AT Bn. moved by truck to LANDSBERG Area 28 April. Mission of the combat team to protect the North and East flank of VI Corps, to relieve elements of 103rd Infantry Division in the vicinity of LANDSBERG, and to maintain law and order and establish Military Government in sector. Disposition of Units: Regtl. Hq. Company at LANDSBERG (X336436), Service Company at LANDSBERG (X336436), 1st and 3rd Bns. at LANDSBERG (X336436), 2nd Bn. at BUCHLOE (X250420), 321st FA Bn. at HOLZHAUSEN (X2745), C Co., 326th Abn Engrs at LANDSBERG, and A Btry, 81st AA-AT Bn. at LANDSBERG.

30 April unit alerted for movement to MARKT-OBERDORF, NESSELWANGEN area. Btrys A and F, 81st AA-AT Bn, Co. C, 326th Abn Engrs. relieved from attachment and one Recn. Troop, 117th Cavalry attached.



HEADQUARTERS 506TH PARACHUTE INFANTRY  
APO 472, United States Army

AFTER ACTION REPORT FOR MAY 1-10, 1945

N A R R A T I V E

On 1 May 1945 the Regimental Combat Team was alerted to move to the FUSSEN (D250900) Area. Later the same day orders were received to move to the XXI Corps Area. The Division now being assigned to the XXI Corps.

The period 2-3 May was spent in trying to catch up with what remained of the war and the German Army. The Combat Team moved to STARIBERG (Y690400) on 2 May 1945 and to MIESBACH (\_069185) on 3 May. On 3 May orders were received to advance and capture BERCHTESGADEN (E950060).

On 4 May the Combat Team moved out toward the objective. Upon reaching INZELL (E755195) it was discovered that the 3rd Infantry Division, the French 2nd DB Division and the 506th RCT all had the same objective, the capture of BERCHTESGADEN. Resistance was light consisting of roadblocks, blown bridges, and scattered small arms and light automatic weapons fire. Due to the mountainous terrain and narrow defiles progress was slow. News was received that elements of the 3rd Infantry Division had captured the town via the BAD REICHENHALL (E8516) Road. The 3rd Bn. Combat Team was ordered to continue the attack as planned.

On 5 May the Combat Team (-3rd Bn. CT) moved to BERCHTESGADEN by the route used by the 3rd Infantry Division. The 3rd Battalion CT arrived the night of 5 May only light delaying action being encountered along the route of advance. Military Government and law and order were established in the area. The Combat Team was alerted to advance to the South to the BRUCK Area (E856670). At 1750 the following message was received: "Effective immediately all troops will stand fast on present positions. German Army Group G in this sector has surrendered. No firing on Germans unless fired upon. Notify French Units in vicinity. Full details to be broadcast, will be issued by SHAEF".

The period 6-9 May was spent enforcing Military Government, collecting prisoners of war and displaced persons. A party from the Regiment contacted Kesserling's Headquarters and arrangements were made for its evacuation. On 7 May the 82nd SS Corps surrendered to the Regiment. V-E Day was spent quietly in BERCHTESGADEN.

On 10 May the regiment with the Rcn. Troop, 813th TD Bn. attached moved to the LEND-BRUCK-STUHLFELDEN-SAALFELDEN Area to enforce the surrender terms, establish military government, and maintain law and order.

DECLASSIFIED  
BY 52009, Sept. 27, 1953  
7-28-72



15 June 1945

HISTORICAL RECORD 11 - 31 May 1945

During the period 11-31 May 1945 this Regiment occupied an area in Austria of approximately 458 square miles with troops concentrated in Zell am See, Lend, Bruck, Laxrun, Uttendorf, Stuhlfelden, Saalfelden, and Saalbach.

Security was the primary mission. Road blocks and orders caused the cessation of all military and civilian movement except for essential commutation authorized by the 3-4, 8-2, or 7th Army Mission. Battalions made thorough reconnaissance of their areas posting guards on weapons, ammunition, food, military stores, art treasures and documents. During the period arrests were made of individual SS Troops under the provisions of the automatic arrest policy. Curfew was enforced by motorized and foot patrols with violators arrested, confined, and expediently tried by Military Government Summary Court. No Werewolf activities or indications of Werewolf activities were noted during the period.

For the first two weeks of the period the troops were mainly occupied with guard and patrol duty. Known distance ranges were built. Preparatory marksmanship was started and other training consisted of close order drill, physical training, and inspections. A minimum of two scheduled hours per week of Information and Education were required. Companies set up information centers. Athletics were stressed with organized inter-company competition in softball and volleyball. Swimming and horseback riding were available. On the 14th of May the boxing team was reformed and started training. The first regimental track team was formed on the 26th of May.

Special Service offered two movies daily in the Regimental Theater at 1400 and 1900. One stage show per week was averaged. Beer in varying amounts was procured and distributed each week to companies and was sold very cheaply at the Regimental Beach and Recreation Center in Zell am See. The Regimental Band played for the battalions and for retreat. A Red Cross Club was established which served coffee, cakes, and a limited quantity of beer. Supplies were inadequate and upon the recalling of the Red Cross representative the club was closed mainly for lack of supplies.

The special means of handling anti-fraternization initiated by 101st Abn. Division was put into effect in the area. DP's were made distinguishable by placing on them an armband marked DP. Anti-fraternization has been emphasized repeatedly. VD films were shown and troops have been instructed that the taking of a prophylactic will in no way be construed or implied as a violation of anti-fraternization.

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On the 31st of May there were 4960 DP's (German in camps or directly under military control. Approximately 1150 Western Europeans were moved out during the period leaving a small unknown number who had taken up permanent residence in towns and on farms. Living conditions were adequate and sanitation fair. Delousing powder was used in two camps. Insufficient food was the main problem at first, however, this was remedied through a meeting of all camp commanders and the local food administrator. A plan was made whereby food was withdrawn from local civilian stores upon requisition of camp commanders.

Discovery was made of part of the National Library of Poland in the stable at Fischhorn Castle. This collection has been moved into the castle and locked up. Another art collection discovered in a castle near Saalfelden has been moved to Fischhorn. The art treasures that were in Fischhorn Castle when we arrived in the area have been viewed by Division G-5 and moved into several rooms and locked up. On May 21st discovery was made of a jet-propelled helicopter near Zell am See. This aircraft along with a working model and plans of an infra-red torpedo steering device were reported and subsequently removed by Air Force Intelligence. At present there are 199 of the steering devices under guard. Records of IC, OKW, and OKM along with other documents have been turned over to Lt. Owen of T-Force, 6th Army Group.

During the period 32 war criminals were apprehended and imprisoned. Included in the list were such infamous characters as Phillip Bouhler, Nazi No. 12, Reichsleiter and SS Obergruppenfuhrer, and Herman Senkowsky, SS Oberfuhrer and Minister of Finance, from Czech Government.

No food, clothing or other supplies were given the German forces. PW's were used to rebuild communication and power lines. German signal technicians rebuilt a radio station. Engineer and other units rebuilt roads and bridges. PW labor was used in repairing German military vehicles used by the Military Government. During the period 11-31 May the German forces were organized into two commands in the regimental area. General Ochsner was in command of all German forces in the area, Luftwaffe Group IV in command of the Southern part of the regimental area and General Westfall was in command in the North. Between 20-31 May the following German forces were evacuated from the regimental area into the Munich Area: Messelring's Staff, OKW Supreme Command Headquarters, OKM Supreme Command Headquarters, elements of OKM Supreme Command Headquarters, elements of OKL, and German forces of various other commands. The total number of German forces evacuated during the period was approximately 48,000.

*R. F. SIMK*

R. F. SIMK  
Colonel, 506th Pzcht. Inf.  
Commanding



9 July 1945

HISTORICAL RECORD 1 - 30 June 1945

During the period 1-30 June 1945 the area occupied by the regiment was decreased to approximately 375 square miles. On 8 June 1945 the 3rd Battalion moved from the Western part of the Landkreis to Saalfelden.

Security policies generally remained the same as in the preceding period with the exception of a new procedure for road blocks. In order to have accurate information as to movement, road blocks were ordered to record the license number, type of vehicle, make, time stopped, number of occupants, and direction of travel of all vehicles passing between 2100 and 0500 hours. There were no indications of Werewolf activities during the month.

Training during the period consisted of preliminary marksmanship and practice firing of the M1, preliminary marksmanship in other weapons, physical training, marches, orientation, reviews and close order drill. In the afternoon athletics were stressed with inter-company competition. The regimental track team worked out daily in preparation for the 101st Abn. Division track meet. Eight members of the team competed for the Division in the meet with the 94th Division. The Regimental Boxing team worked out daily and won its only team test during the month by defeating the Division Artillery team. The 506th Baseball team was organized on 10 June, the other scheduled games being postponed by rain.

Special Service continued to offer two shows daily in the Regimental Theater. Beer was procured and distributed. The Regimental orchestra played for company parties. The Red Cross Club was reopened by the new representative.

The use of the DP armbands was continued as a special means of handling non-fraternization. A new distribution of the seven "Battle" orders was made, and the reasons for the non-fraternization policy again emphasized. With the departure of many DP's it is becoming more difficult to enforce the policy.

The movement of DP's out of the area increased with a total of 5896 moved out during the month. The following shipments were made: 15 June, 1978 Russians; 17 June, 649 Italians; 19 June, 1361 Hungarians; 21 June, 110 Czechs, 4 Dutch, 2 Belgians, 6 French, 15 Italians; 27 June, 771 Yugoslavs, 100 Russians, 900 Hungarians and Rumanians. The two DP Camps are at Fischhorn and Kaprun. The sanitary conditions have at times been poor due to overcrowding. There remained 1698 assorted DP's in the area on 30 June.

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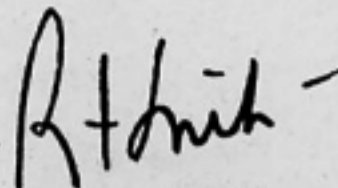


During the month there were no art treasures or important documents discovered. Twenty-six SS were arrested in the area and the CIC arrested the Minister of War of Croatia. All Arrests were made upon the authority of the automatic arrest clause, and all were evacuated by the CIC.

No food, clothing or other supplies were issued to the German Forces. PW's were used to repair roads and to collect equipment into dumps. Two German service units are utilized in the area to collect German military vehicles and to repair them. Those that are servicable have been turned over to the Military Government.

Two Discharge Centers have been established at Maishofen and Saalfelden. Between the 1st and 30th of June 3001 German soldiers were discharged. The majority of those discharged were released from local hospitals.

Redeployment resulted in a large turnover of personnel, the largest of which took place on 28 June when 385 were transferred to the 501st Parachute Infantry and 655 received from 501st Parachute Infantry.



R. F. SINK  
Colonel, 506th Parachute Inf.  
Commanding



10 August 1945

HISTORICAL RECORD - 1 JULY - 2 AUGUST 1945

During the period 1 July to 2 August 1945 the area occupied by the regiment was decreased to approximately 215 square miles of the landkreis of Zell am See. The Third Battalion moved out of the Saalfelden area to the town of Zell am See.

Security policies remained the same as in the preceding period. The only change was the addition of two new division boundary roadblocks; one on the boundary of the French zone at Saalbach and one near the British zone boundary at Ferleiten. Interior roadblocks were decreased to one. There were no indications of Werewolf activities during the month.

Training during the period consisted of individual training in crew served and individual weapons. All units fired preliminary and record courses with individual weapons. A survey for non-swimmers was made and a course of instruction for non-swimmers started. In the afternoons athletics were stressed with inter-company competition. The regimental boxing team won three and lost none against other regimental teams.

Special Service continued to offer two shows daily in the Regimental Theater. Beer was procured and distributed. The regimental orchestra played for company parties. A Fourth of July celebration was held though it was delayed until the 6th of July due to inclement weather. The celebration commenced with a battalion parade through town followed by a talk by the Regimental Commander and Military Governor of the Kreis. A delayed free jump followed by a mass jump into the Zeller See by members of Regimental Headquarters Company was the highlight of the day. Aquatic sports were held with competition in swimming and boat races. Beer and ice cream was served to the troops. Horse races were held on the track at the Bruck Airfield. The celebration closed with fireworks over the lake at 2100 hour.

The relaxation of the non-fraternization policy to allow conversation with adult Austrian nationals in public at first was construed by the troops to mean an almost complete reversal of the policy. This condition was quickly rectified and enforcement became stricter than before, though more difficult.

Only approximately 150 displaced persons remained in the Regimental Area. The majority of these were employed in the unit messes, the remainder were quartered at the Fischhorn Camp.

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No new intelligence targets were located in our area during the month of July. The Vienna Institute of Science was guarded in its temporary installation at Thumersbach. A prisoner of war camp was established at Kaprun to continue maintenance and development of the Kaprun Hydroelectric Project. Prisoners consisted mainly of groups whose homes were in the Russian occupied zone. The discharge center was closed out at Maishofen and moved to Saalfelden under Division Artillery control. Approximately 2,000 individuals were discharged during the month. Six German Army hospitals in Zell am See were closed out under German and American medical supervision.

The unit was alerted to move to the vicinity of Joigny, France on or about 31 July. Movement was by rail and motor. One train departed 31 July, two on 1 August, and the motor element departed 2 August. The unit closed in its new location at Joigny, France on 4 August 1945.

*R. F. Sink*

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Colonel, 506th Pzcht. Inf.  
Colonel