

1 August 1944

358 Infantry

Capt. [unclear]
L/16

At 0100 G-3 notified the Regiment to cancel any reconnaissance parties it might have for the morning. At 0700, overlays of the "Big Picture" were sent to the Battalions.

By 0830, Lt. B. Clarke, Ia. O. had furnished the Regiment with overlays of the new bivouac areas. He also gave overlays of the routes to the assembly areas which were to be reconnoitered.

At 0950 Major Brooks requested that Major Falvey return to the "Island" and inspect the defenses. G-3 informed Major Nichols to be prepared to motorize the Regiment for the coming move.

An open air show was planned for the afternoon, in a field near the Reg't CP. Local security was provided in the form of AA, AN and three (3) heavy MG's. The show played to audiences throughout the Regiment and the attendance was nearly 100%.

At 1655 Lt. Col. Stilwell, G-3, notified the Regiment that it would receive, (tonight) two (2) Truck Co's, less one (1) platoon, to motorize the Regiment. The Regiment would be prepared to move on four (4) hours notice. The route would be the same as was used by the 357th. He then gave the "pick-up" point for the Truck Co's.

At 1700 the Tank Deal for training was called off. Battalions were notified of the motorizing of the Regiment. The motor officers were instructed to pick a parking area for the trucks to be assigned to their units. (approx. 30 each)

Battalions were also notified that replacements were coming in (tonight).

The Regimental Motor Officer was instructed to meet the G-4 at 2000 to receive vehicles (which would be in Ferrier).

At 2115 Lt. Col. Clarke alerted the 3d Battalion. The 3d Bn and the 357th In Reg't were to go to the 4th Div. to reinforce it.

The 1st and 2d Battalions were not ordered, "to make themselves mobile." AT Co was informed that it's 3d Platoon was to be alerted. AT Co, Wise, was informed of the threat to the 4th Div. "just in case!" The company, however, was not alerted.

At 2240 Major Wallace was notified that he would go with the 3d Bn--tonight. The 1st and 2d Bns and Spec. Units were to "hit" the IP at 0430. The order of march: 2nd Bn--1st Bn--and spec. units. All units were notified of this. Maps and orders would be given later.

CLASSIFICATION CHANGED TO:
CANCELLED
BY AUTHORITY OF THE ASSISTANT GENERAL
not ordered, "to make themselves mobile."
DOWNGRADING COMPLETED

2240 Lt. Col. Clarke and Major Wallace planned the route, speed of march, and

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58 Infantry

The Third Battalion closed out at ~~21~~ 2350.

At 2400, the Regimental Order was:

IP: Lt. Aubon du Perron.

Order of March: 2d Bn, 1st Bn, AT Co., Cn. Co., Hq. Co., Reg'l Medics.,
Serv. Co. and the 315th Med Co.

Speed: 15 miles per hour (Max. 20 MPH until 0500) then 25 MPH (Max. 35).

Kitchens would go with Battalions.

Routes would be marked by Division MP's.

2 August 1944

58 Infantry

At last the 358th Infantry was on its way again! The Regiment received the Division FO #17, which, excerpt, follows:

L-169
Hq 90th Inf. Div.
Vic Gateau du Perrons
012300B Aug 1944

FO #17

1. a. The enemy is withdrawing to the South and Southeast towards Mayenas. Reports indicate that reinforcements may reach undetermined parts of the line and they may be expected to counterattack in order to relieve pressure on his hard pressed troops. Only small groups have been contacted in the area to be occupied. Unconfirmed reports say possibility of Panzer Troops east of Avranches.

b. The XV Corps moves South tonight through Coutances - Avranches - to seize the crossings over La Selune River, North west and North of St. Hilaire du Harcouet and secure a line to the North thereof extending to the See River, blocking any enemy movement against our forces between these two rivers.

The First Army will be on our left. The VIII Corps will be on our right. Elements of our Armored Forces are in the area of our advance beyond Avranches.

2. 90th Inf. Div:

Atchd: 693d FA Bn
607th TD Bn
537th AAA Bn
712th Tank Bn

Moves tonight, beginning at 2300 via Division route, to block any movement of the enemy to the west towards Avranches between the Selune River and the See River and secure the crossing over the Selune River in the vic of St. Hilaire du Harcouet and be prepared to continue the advance.

3. b. Task Force Clarke (Lt. Col. C. H. Clarke, Jr. Cndg)

3d Bn 358 Inf. (mtz)
344 FA Bn
1 Plat Co. B 315 Engr Bn
Co A 607th TD Bn (-1 Plat)
Det 90th Sig Co

Move via Division route at 2330 to detrucking point to be determined by Force Commander. Seize and secure crossing over Selune River, north & northwest of St. Hilaire du Harcouet.

d. CT 358 (less Force Clarke, Mtz)

Atchd: Co B 607th TD Bn
Co B 315 Engr Bn (- 1 plat)

Move by Div route at 020330 to detrucking area, occupy Bn areas indicated. Outpost Selune River from Bardet (360045) to St Hilaire du Harcouet, both incl. and be prepared to secure Dam (368039) when uncovered by elements of the 4th Armd Div. Force Clarke reverts to CT control on Division order. Be prepared to continue the advance to the south.

3. X. Div. Route: IP -(CR 255695) - Coutances - Legrome - Ver - La Haye Pesnel - Avranches - CR 305150 - CR 374124- (detrucking Pt.)

By 0200 all units were in complete possession of the movement plans. The 3d Bn had already left.

At 0500 the Regimental CP closed and the New CP opened at 1500, near Isigny (416069). At 1532 the 2d Bn reported that they were closed in. Major Nichols went to the Div CP for orders. The 1st and 2d Bns were given instructions regarding the outposting of their areas - motor patrols by day and listening posts at night. 1st Bn to have at least one (1) platoon to guard Dam with plenty of automatic weapons.

At 1550 Major Wallace arrived from the 3d Bn. He stated that elements of the 3d Bn are just inside of St. Hilaire du Harcouet.

By 1630 Lt. Col. Clarke arrived. He stated that his TF had taken the town with but a few casualties. He had been congratulated by Gen Weaver who had been present. He added that the comparatively easy victory had helped immeasurably to build up the morale of the troops.

At 1646 the 1st Bn was all closed in. Major Falvey called Div G-3 and checked on our boundaries and patrol requirements. He also informed G-3 that the 3d Bn had the town and all routes thereto.

By 1710 the 358th Inf and detachments were all closed in. Lt. Col. Clarke, realizing that the Battalions were not placed as planned, directed Major Nichols to contact G-3. G-3 agreed with Lt. Col. Clarke. The positions were to form a triangle with the CP within it. 1st and 2nd Bn and Spec Unit CO's were ordered to the CP for instructions on a New position. Personnel carriers were to be used to carry the troops.

As the Regiment would probably remain in position for about three days, Lt. Col. Clarke notified S-3 to have S-4 have hot meals served as often as possible. The I & R Platoon reconnoitered the Triangle Defense to make sure no Germans were within it.

At 1825 a PW stated there may be German Infantry between St. Hilaire Du H. and Mortain. At 1845 the General phoned and enquired about the situation in general and asked if the troops were tired. At 1920 Lt. Col. Clarke notified Lt. Col. Bealke, 3d Bn CO, that they may have to move tonight to the south. He suggested a foot movement.

At 1927, Major Nichols informed Lt. Col. Clarke that the attack movement would have the same set-up as last night with the exception of adding one Rcn Plat. (The Rcn Plat would go to the 3d Bn, because at present, it was the only Bn on the line. The 1st Bn would take over the position of the 3d Bn.

Lt. Col. Clarke now informed his Task Force that they would move, on foot, at 2045. 1st Bn was notified that they would occupy the present positions of the 3d Bn. Major Falvey received permission to send five (5) MP's with the Task Force.

At 2000 Lt. Donahue, Ln. O., reported the positions of the 357th Inf..

A new plan was given the 1st Bn at 2030. They would put "A" Co. in Hilaire, one (1) company on each side of road southeast of the town (B on the left-north, and C on the right -south)

2050 - Task Force Clarke was now operating under the command of Lt. Col. Bealke. It would leave at 2045 for road junction, six (6) miles south of St. Hilaire Du H. to secure that road, and send one company (reinforced) to road junction. The 1st Bn, in addition to taking over 3d Bn mission, was to take the high ground in the vicinity of Les Rois.

At 2100 the 2d Bn Patrols reported "no enemy sighted." They had patrolled as far as the river.

By 2215, Lt Col. Bealke stated he had met no resistance so far. He also stated that he would advance by bounds. This information was passed on to Division.

Authority NND 735017By 13r NARA Date 12/9

3 August 1944

HISTORY

358th Infantry

The 1st Bn secured the high ground East of ST HILAIRE DU HARCOURT at 2300. This was reported at 0100. 3rd Bn reached their objective at 0155 and had met no resistance, and had taken 17 PW's. (At this point it will be noted that 3rd Bn was known as Task Force Clarke)

At 0420, Div F.O. No. 18 was received. PW's report that the enemy MIR would be at MAYENNE. At 0820, we were told by the General to "sit" for the day.

At 0845, Major Falvey notified Division that the Task Force Clarke had captured ST HILAIRE at 021400 August and LA VOAIGNE DU DESERT at 030155 August 1944.

Recon parties were ordered out. At 1000 Task Force Clarke reported the capture of five officers.

At 1005 2nd Bn was alerted, to move in to vic of ST HILAIRE at 1200. 693rd Arty to furnish trucks. "K" Co at LANDIVY - some resistance.

Various reports were received from civilians. All of them were investigated. All reports indicated that the enemy was withdrawing to LAVAL.

G-3, at 1245, ordered that all overlays be made from 1/50,000 maps. Liaison O's kept the CP in contact with adjacent units during the day. At 1320, the Recon had reached LANDIVY and Lt. Col. Clarke ordered that they remain there and outpost to the South and East.

At 1220, the 1st Bn was ordered to contact the 357th every two hours - on the odd hours. At 1350, the enemy cut "L" Co wire. They were presumed to be a small detached group.

At 1415, the Recon elements in LANDIVY received Machine Gun fire. At 1455, Div ordered one platoon of tanks and recon., and one platoon Infantry to go to LANDIVY.

Lt. Col. Clarke ordered the Infantry Platoon (3rd Bn) going to LANDIVY be motorized.

At ST HILAIRE du HARCOURT the 358th Infantry was confronted with many collaborators. Many instances were brought to the attention of the Regt'l S-2.

At 1630, Lt. Donohue reported on the plans and operations of the 357th and 358th. Lt. Col. Clarke announced at 1640 that "Task Force Clarke" had been disbanded as of 1200 but that its attached units would remain with the Regiment.

At 1710, G-3 arrived and wanted the 1st and 3rd Bn positions consolidated.

At this time, General McClain phoned that he had been informed that the "Task Force" going to LANDIVY had encountered trouble. He warned that he did not want a pitched battle.

G-3 and Lt. Col. Clarke discussed the placement of troops and patrolling. 3rd Bn was informed that Cannon Co and the Arty was all set to support them.

Lt. Col. Clarke now told Lt. Col. Doomis, Acting CO, 1st Bn, to have a rifle platoon sent to high ground at CR (501991). The platoon will have AT mines, to be laid for added protection. Capt Burns, S-3 3rd Bn, was instructed to have his men guard mine fields which were now guarded by the Engineers.

It was decided now that when tanks go into BUAIS, we would send one plat (1st Bn) there.

Authority NND 735017

By 43r NARA Date 12/9

4 August 1944

HISTORY

358th Infantry

Very little activity marked the early hours. Patrol reports were received. The usual civilian reports came through. Contacts were made with Division hourly. The patrols sent to NOTRE DAME, via JUVIGNY and MORTAIN consisted of 21 men and five vehicles. (all of 1st Bn). Seven men were left in NOTRE DAME and the rest proceeded to BUAIS. They remained there as town patrols. More prisoners were captured by the 3rd Bn. Germans were reported preparing bridges at MAYENNE for demolition. Division was requested to send planes to strafe them.

3rd Bn reported the city of LANDIVY "very enthusiastic".

At 1230, the CG arrived and conferred with Major Wallace on the future plans. At 1405, Lt. Col. Clarke ordered Bn Comdrs to CP for a conference. At 1435, 1st Bn motorized Co B and searched out some Germans who were reported to be in their area. Bns were notified that the 5th Armd had patrols that were going out beyond our lines tonight.

At 1630 - 344 FA supporting 3rd Bn and 693 FA supporting the Regiment.

At 1640 - Major Wallace to be Ex O of 2nd Bn; Major Lytle to be CO, 1st Bn; Lt. Col. Loomis to Regt'l Ex O.

At 1645, a meeting of the Staff and Spec Unit CO's was called for 1930.

At 1857 Cannon Co was instructed to cover "K" Co in LANDIVY and its sector.

All S-1's and 1st Sgts were to report to CP at 2100.

At 2135, a warning order was received by telephone. Be prepared to move 0600.

All units were notified.

For the move, it was decided to use 2nd Bn as the forward element.

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Authority **NNDT35017**By **43r** NARA Date **12/9**

5 August 1944

HISTORY

8th Infantry

0100 and the Germans bombed ST HILAIRE du HARCOURT. It was intense bombing and the raid lasted nearly an hour. Many flares were dropped and the buildings around where the CP was located shook and vibrated with each bomb that was released. All units were checked and they reported that they received no casualties except the 3rd Bn - their wire line was out.

The time of the move changed to 0800. We would start on foot and later be picked up. Destination - a point on the MAYENNE RIVER, half way between LAVAL and MAYENNE. All units were informed.

Div F. O. No. 19

L-169 050600 Aug 44

3. b. GT 358

- (1) Will advance by marching within its zone via route indicated on overlay.
- (2) Will initiate movement by 050800 and will make such preliminary dispositions as necessary to insure that its columns will not interfere with the movement of Task Force Weayer.

The route - LORAIS, BUAIS, FOUGEROLLES, LA DORE, LEYARE, ST DENIS DE GASTINES, ERNEE. The march order was issued at 0630.

IP - Buais

Order of March -Foot Elements

2nd Bn (Adv Gd)
1st Bn
3rd Bn

IP Time

1230
1300
1320

Motor Elements

2nd Bn
1st Bn
3rd Bn
AT Co
Cn Co
Hq and Regt'l Med
Serv Co
Co B 315th Med.

IP Time

1330

For march objective and alternate, see overlay.

At 0815, Lt. Col. Clarke left the CP to check on the movement.

The column was now on the road and making good time. IP crossings were checked and new IP's set up.

At 1130 to 1730 CP moved to BUAIS and opened at 1200. March CP moved fwd by bounds with column.

A temporary CP was set up at CARELLES while quartering party went forward. During the day the Reg't proceeded without incident.

At 1840, a party went rear-ward to search for stragglers.

By 1900, the Regt'l CP was established a mile NE of ST DENIS DE GASTINES.

By 2300, overlays of all units had been received.

At 2330, Lt. Col. Clarke conferred with the Engrs about road blocks at ERNEE and VOTARTY. Rifle platoons would defend the blocks. Troops would go by truck.

Authority **NND 735017**By **43r** NARA Date **12/9**

Hq 358th Inf

5 August 1944

MARCH ORDER

This Regiment marches by foot and motor, 5 Aug 44, via Loraix, Buis, Fougereolles, La Bores, Bayard, St Denis de Castines to rendezvous Ernee. It will be followed by 34th PA, elements of 607th TD Bn, 315th PA.

IP - Buis

Order of March -Foot Elements

2nd Bn (Adv Guard)
1st Bn
3rd Bn

IP Time

~~1200~~ 1230
~~1200~~ 1300
~~1200~~ 1320

Motor Elements

2nd Bn
1st Bn
3rd Bn
AT Co
Cn Co
Hq Co & Regt'l Med
Service Co
Co B 315th Med

IP Time

~~1200~~ 1330

Troops will march on right side of road in column of twos. SOP distances between units. Halts - ten minutes hourly commencing 10 minutes before clock hour, lunch halt at ~~1200-1200~~ PRIOR TO CROSSING IP.

The following motors only from each battalion will march with foot columns: AT prime movers, 1 command, 1 messenger, 1 radio, 1 weapons carrier per rifle company, 6 weapons carriers per heavy weapons Co, Bn Med vehicles. They will move by bounds between the head of the following battalion and the head of their own battalion. In the case of the 3rd Bn bounds will be made every half hour. All other vehicles, except Regt'l march CP and Regt'l AT prime movers, will move under Regt'l control following the foot column. All except 3rd Bn and Cn Co vehicles will be reported to Regt'l Motor Officer at RJ 47700295 (just SE of St Hilaire at 1000. 3rd Bn and Cn Co vehicles revert to Regt'l control at IP (Buis) at 1100.

Regt'l AT Officer will place two (2) platoons of AT guns with Regt'l Motor Train for protection of the column. He will coordinate the use of the Bn AT platoons and one (1) AT Platoon AT Co for AT protection throughout the foot column.

All elements of the Regiment will be East of the road St Hilaire - Landivy-La Terriere by 0800.

Regt'l ITR Platoon will patrol the route three to five miles in advance of the foot column.

OO 3rd Bn will provide motor patrol to both flanks of the foot column on parallel roads. Reports by motor messenger to Regt'l march CP hourly after 1000

CP's - Regt'l - until 1000, no change; after 1000 by bounds behind the 2nd Bn foot column. Bn's - head of Bn foot column. Communications - until 0700 no change, after 0700 radio and messenger.

Authority **NND 735017**By **13r** NARA Date **12/9**

6 August 1944

HISTORY

358th Infantry

MISSION ORDER

Hq 90th Div
6 August 1944

TO : CO CT 8

1. Confirming verbal instructions issued to S-3, 358th Inf, CT 8 advances by marching 060800, with initial march obj ALEXAIN.
2. 1 reinforced Co (F Co, HMG Platoon & Engr) Mtz, preceded at appropriate distance by Mtz patrol will precede the advance of the Regt. This Co continues SE from ALEXAIN with a mission of crossing the MAYENNE RIVER in vic 738617, seizing and occupying town of MARTIGNE to protect bridging operations at the crossing site.
3. The proposed plan is for TFW to move S of MAYENNE on MONTSURS thence E to LE MANS, the remainder of the Div to cross at the bridge to be constructed in your area and one farther to the S (701525) thence E behind TFW.
4. I will bring further instructions in person this morning.

STILLWELL
G-3

1st Bn was furnished trucks at 0020 to transport troops to ERNEE to establish road blocks. However, the Military Traffic was heavy and it was impracticable to lay mines there.

Regt'1 CP moved at 0820 and went to IP 1 1/2 miles South of ST DENIS de GASTINES. At 0910, the CP moved from IP and established CP at 635735.

By 0930, patrols reported "No enemy as far as ALEXAIN".

The CP moved by bounds. Patrols were always "out in front" and by 1015 reported no enemy in the forest ahead (MAYENNE FORET)

1140, and the bridge to MARTIGNE out. At 1300 the CP was 1/2 miles South of PLACE. At 1347 the CP moved to the East side of ALEXAIN.

At 1522 the Reg't was still moving and the I & R platoon reported no enemy in MARTIGNE.

At 1630 the troops were permitted to bathe in the river while the bridge was being constructed. At 1735, the column was again in motion and the Regt'1 CP was now in MARTIGNE.

At 1930, the CP was now at CHALONE du MAINES. An enemy vehicle had been encountered here and, to prevent pursuit, they fired three rounds of mortars. Troops were to bivouac here for the night.

At 2030, the CP again moved, this time to (782566) North of CHALONS du MAINES.

At 2200 G-3 arrived and verbally gave the order for the 7th of August. It was passed on verbally to the units concerned, as follows:

"2nd Bn will hit IP at 070730. Transportation same as today.

"F" Co to be mtzd."

Authority NND 735017

By JBR NARA Date 12/9

7 August 1944

HISTORY

358th Infantry

The night was routine. Contacts were established and security was posted.

At 0715, the CP moved to the IP (CR due South of CHALONS du MAINES). The head of the column had crossed the IP at 0700.

Patrols and reconnaissance were constantly maintained to make sure routes were clear of the enemy.

The 1st Bn cleared the IP at 0928.

At 1315, the CO, 357th Inf., was informed that we were close on to him and that he was to maintain contact. It was reported by the I & R platoon that 1 AT gun and 300 Germans were at CHAMMES. This was relayed to the head of the column.

At 1435, the Reg't CP was 2 3/4 miles NW of ST SUZANNE.

At 1530, Lt. Col. Clarke sent the following message to Division: "1 Co, 3rd Bn will be placed around South and East sides of ST SUZANNE. Balance of Bn along rd North of town. Balance of Reg't extending from present positions North into woods".

At 1530, the following msg was received from Division: "When column moves North of ST SUZANNE, one reinforced Co remain and secure the town."

Lt. Col. Clarke requested permission to remain here for the night.

At 1400, the Regt'l CO assembled his Staff and briefed them on the current situation.

Div gave permission to stay here over night at 1635.

At 1900, CP moved to 942486 for the night.

At 1930, order for 8 Aug 44: "Continue March at 0700. Order of March, 2d, 1st, 3rd. IP fwd edge of woods. Rear Bn furnish flank motor patrols. Maintain motor contact to protect rear of CT 357. Guides from 3rd Bn."

All units notified.

The CG 90th Div, stated that the French civilians who had arms be permitted to keep them unless they should endanger our troops.

The route for 8 Aug will be unchanged from current order.

Local security was not established.

Trucks for tomorrow's move will be picked up at 0545 - through G-3.

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8 August 1944

HISTORY

358th Infantry.

During the early morning hours plans were made for the coming move. Capt. Jacks MFO, was given outline of move and where and when to place the vehicles for the move.

Order of March:

2nd Bn (adv gd)	0700
CP	0730
1st Bn	0745
Cn Co	0815
AT Co	0825
Engr	0830
Med	0835
Arty	0840

At 0700, our leading elements crossed the IP. By 0924, the 358th had closed on the 357th Inf. The CP again moved by bounds with the column.

At 1045, G-3 oriented the CP on the plan for taking LE MANS.

Plans for reconnaissance and patrols were discussed.

Bns reported as they passed selected points. 1400 - and enemy aircraft overhead! All units were immediately cautioned. At 1410, General McClain arrived at the CP and gave full details on the plan to capture LE MANS. The 90th would go in from the North. The 5th Armd would meet the 90th East of LE MANS. This would effect an encirclement and cut off all roads leading in or out of the city.

The General, on his way here, captured two prisoners.

By 1430, Lt. Col. Munson, Arty, was making plans of defensive fires for NW of LE MANS. The I&R platoon reported, at 1500, that the enemy was very definitely in LE MANS. There were small groups dug-in North of the town and small groups in bludge. in he town. Major Falvey learned of some 105-guns that were located in BERNAY. He ordered his I&R platoon to demolish them so that the small groups that have been left pocketed can not turn around and use them against us.

At 1530, the Engrs were instructed to place road blocks on roads North and Northwest of LE MANS, and to defend them. At this time the Free French were very active. The located bands of enemy, and, when they could, they fought and captured them. After times they reported the enemy to us. At one point, they captured 107 PW's!

"K" Co, which, up to now, had been stationed in ST SUZANNE, was to be brought forward. Road blocks were planned for the towns immediately about us. Capt. Whittinghill, CO hq Co, made plans with Major Falvey for a CP location for the night. Capt. Olson, S-4, reported that a sorely needed item, socks, would be available for the troops within 24 hours. Gen. McClain ordered, at 1745, that the 358th close the gap on road leading NW out of LE MANS. By 1820, the Regt'1 CP settled down for the night at QUINTE. Lt. Col. Clarke ordered wire to all Bns.

1935 - Lt. Col. Clarke was ordered by the CG:

"By-pass LE MANS. 2nd Bn cross river NE of LE MANS tonight, with a Bn of Artillery."

Lt. Col. Clarke stated the order of march would be: "2nd Bn, then 1st Bn. 2nd Bn will take ST PALAIS until 1st Bn comes up, and will then proceed to CHATELETS. The I&R platoon will reconnoiter routes. The bulk of the 3rd Bn will go a mile beyond LA QUINTE and hold the road." "A" Co platoon at VERNET ordered to rejoin Bn.

The "A" Co OP, NE of LE MANS, reported that a whole German convoy surrendered to them - 800 PW's! The first truck had been stopped with a bazooka, and the rest surrendered.

Capt. Midyett, Engrs, was ordered to reconnoiter stream for possible crossing. 2048 - CP to be at DEBRE for the night. Cannon Co was ordered forward to river, with idea in mind of firing W and S, covering 1st Bn. AT Co ordered to go East of PALAIS, and AT guns may have to be pulled across river by jeeps. 3rd Bn was ordered to tie in with 1st Bn, 357, at edge of woods.

At 2150 - plan of 358....Right flank, 3rd Bn, extends SW along road to woods. The remainder of the regiment will march East from there to cross river near ST PAVAGE, where Engrs will build a bridge. (The 2nd Bn, followed by the 1st Bn, are now enroute to PAVAGE) When the bridge is in, they will cross and take objective A 2 1/2 Km East of PAVAGE on high ground, cutting the road. Just SE of CHATALET is Objective B, which cuts off other road. Light and Medium artillery will be moved NW and W of LA CHAPPELLE. The cannon company, artillery, and mortar train will be between LA MILLESE and LA QUINTE. The German Co will be in rd of DEBRE facing SW to shoot in support of

9 August 1944

358 Infantry

After a hot days activity, in which events were never dull, the 358th Inf. Regiment came to rest at a Regimental CP located in a schoolhouse, at Degre, a small town northwest of Le Mans, the Corps Objective, at 0105.

The Security Guard, assisted by Capt. Wm. Shipe, ass't G-3, had no little difficulty in persuading the inhabitants to turn out their lights. These people, feeling for the first time in years that they were really free, thought they could light their houses. After much word, hand and shoulder conversation, the idea was "put across".

All Command Groups now began functioning again in high gear. 2d Bn reported that it had reached its march objective and had aligned in at 0025. The Wire Section, under Reg'l Cmn. G., Capt. Stocka, reported that wire was laid to the Bns. Stocka

Lt. Martin, 115th Regr., reported that he had placed the mines on strategic points and also reported the capture of a German motor column. Major Klueh reported our progress to G-3.

The worry of the Reg'l CO, Lt. Col. Clarke, at this time was the progress of the Engineers, who were to construct a bridge for us. At two o'clock, Capt. Stocka reported that he had nets on my Engineer equipment along the road, up to 0200 hours. However, at 0215, Capt. Hiddett, of the Engineers, reported, by messenger, that he planned to use assault boats for the crossing. Lt. Col. Clarke, however, did not feel that these boats would be enough to get the jeeps and 57's across, so he stated to Lt. Martin of the Engineers. Lt. Martin left to convey this message, promising to keep the Regiment, through Lt. Col. Loomis, informed of his bridge progress.

The 358th Inf. was now faced with a unique problem. In tent of surely concerning itself with the enemy "out front", it had to contend with an ever increasing number of prisoners. At 0212 Cannon Co. brought 37 PW's to the CP, swelling our total to 135. Lt. Col. Loomis directed that they be taken to the IPW Cage. Now came the problem of handling them. Lt. Col. Loomis called G-2, explained the situation, and asked for help in handling them. G-2 took this request under advisement.

The 607th TB outfit now reported that they had their guns all in place at 0320. For some reason, communication by wire to the Bns went out. Lt. Col. Loomis repeatedly tried to contact them by radio, but was unsuccessful.

Lt. Aughtry, 1st Bn S-2, arrived at 0430 and informed Lt. Col. Loomis that "A" Co had taken 63 prisoners. Our total was now 198. Three of the later were badly wounded. He stated that the prisoners were being held at Le Willess, a small hamlet just north-east of us. He was directed to have them held there until we could move them.

When G-3 called at 0440, Lt. Col. Loomis briefed him on the river crossing situation and also on the PW situation. Five minutes later, communication with the Bns was re-established. Lt. Col. Loomis impressed both 1st and 2d Bns on the absolute necessity of making an early river crossing. He ordered that they make every possible effort to carry out this mission. At the same time the Lt. Col. acquainted the Bns with the most important information that 357th Infantry was almost in Le Mans and that the 79th was on the right flank. He also told them that we had a great deal of artillery support and, if necessary, to use it.

At this time the Engineers reported that the bridge would be ready "in about 3 hrs". Now Lt. Col. Loomis contacted 357th Inf. and gave them our Bn positions and the situation regarding the river crossing. In return, the 357th informed him that their 2d Bn and two Bns of the 115th Regr. (79th) were in Le Mans and that "Task Force" Weaver was at the RJ. The 2d Bn and the two Bns of 315 now had secured the bridge in Le Mans and they had met with no resistance.

At 0530 Lt. Col. Loomis informed Davis on that the river crossing would be effected at approximately 0600. He was informed, at his time, that Davis could not help evacuate the prisoners.

By 0650 the Regiment was informed that the 357th had captured the bridge, that

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7 August 1944 (page 2)

358th Infantry

It looked now as though the 358th would push the east. However, this is merely general opinion.

Major Falvey, S-2, now made plans to evacuate the prisoners. This plan was carried out.

Now came the move. At 0900 the 2d Bn was crossing the river. Due to our cutting off roads, the encirclement of La Haux was not nearly complete. Now it was decided to have our entire outfit cross the River NE of La Haux, and we were to leave the road blocks intact. The Artillery was contacted and instructed to have the tab up for observation and that it report regularly to Lt. Col. Hanson, Arty Co.

At 1000 our wire section had wire across the river. The Reg'l CP was moved out at 1015 and established a new CP at 35807 at 1030.

At 1100 hours we were informed that the 90th Div was right behind us. The 1st Bn, at 1150, had gone 1,000 yards beyond the river and that all vehicles of theirs were across the river, which incidentally took place at Ste. Foy.

At 1230, great news for the 90th Div came. Lt. Farrell Douglas, Lt. O., to the 377 was at the CP and informed the CP that the 377 was "jumping" into La Haux, over the one remaining bridge. It seems that a young French boy had cut the wire that could have blown the bridge. The entry into La Haux (a Prison Capture) placed the 90th Division further into France than any other allied army. This was World War I and the 358th Inf. Reg't played no small part in making this World War I.

At 1330 the Engineers reported that the bridge was ready and that it would take any vehicle up to 2 1/2 tons. Shortly thereafter our 2d Bn crossed the river, and the 3d Bn was alerted, but would move on later orders and would be motorized.

The Artillery support was alerted by Lt. Col. Lewis and was ready "to roll" at 1500. The ID's would stay with 2d Bn, and this Bn was ordered to move by 1900.

At 1715 the Regiment received marching orders from G-3. "Be prepared to move by motor, 1200 10 Aug, to the north. CP 358 to include one Co ID's - 1 Co Med. Bn - 1 Co Ingra - 1 Bn 14, Arty (1st) - 1 Bn Med. Arty (693). Have interpreter near front to contact French 2d Armored Division."

The CP moved again. This time to a Chateau just above the river crossing. "I" Co. was instructed to remain near the CP.

The ID's, however, could not cross the bridge at the present set-up. Equipment was too heavy. They would, however, be across at 0800.

At 2000 the Medics captured a prisoner while they were in swimming. The "Big Picture" and the 90th Div Picture was received. The positions of all Battalions were reported to the Regiment. Division notified the Regiment to have all Bn CO's report for a meeting at 1000, 10 August.

Let it be noted here that the river crossing this day was a great accomplishment. It is the result of careful and intelligent planning, and most certainly brings and reflects great credit to those in command of the 358th Infantry Regiment.

10 August 1944

358th Infantry

The early morning hours of 10 August, the busy, were quite routine. "K" Co. platoons were closed in at 0235 and the CO, TD's reported that his position was right behind the 315th Engineers, at 0625.

Lt. B. Clark, Lt. D to Div, reported to the OP with extracts from the IV Corps order, dated 9 August. The Corps objective is to seize line SEES - GARROUES, Corps Reserve - 1 CG of the 5th Armored Div. The 5th Armored will attack on the right, followed closely by one RCT of the 79th, motorized. The balance of the 79th will follow on foot. The 2d French Armored will attack on the left, followed by one RCT of the 90th Div., motorized. The rest of the 90th will follow on foot. ~~Should~~ ~~be~~ ~~the~~ ~~80th~~ ~~Div.~~ The 80th Div. protects the left flank of the Corps, with the 106th Cav.

To clarify the picture, let it be noted that lightning fast German Armor and crack fighting divisions of troops are on our (358th) left flank, and, as they fell back from the forces bearing in from the coast, they would attempt to break through our flank. The Regimental Commander, Lt. Col. Clarke, knew that when they hit us, their ~~stand~~ stand, tactics and fighting would be vicious. Consequently he made careful plans, assisted by his staff, Major Nichols ~~and~~ and Major Falvey and Lt. Col. Loomis. The Battalion Commanders also contributed to these plans.

The Regiment, through underground sources and reconnaissance, learned that there were mine field, road blocks, tank traps and machine gun positions covering the vicinity of Alencon and Nagers. Tanks and AF guns are discovered just ahead. Parts of the highly vaunted 9th Panzer Division were positively identified as being to our front and left.

During our rapid and crushing advance, the Battalions salvaged German weapons. I Co, during our short stop-over, tested these weapons and decided some were worth taking along.

Regimental and Battalion Commanders attended a meeting, called by the Division Commander, at 1000. At this meeting the Regimental Commander, Lt. Col. G. H. Clarke, Jr., and the Third Battalion Commander, Lt. Col. Jacob Sealks, were awarded the Silver Star. Also at this meeting, pertinent facts were brought to light and were capably passed on to the officers of the Regiment later in the day by the Regimental Commander. The facts follow:

"We will now, for a while, move rapidly. Sometimes we will be motorized, sometimes, not. Our direction of move now will be north, there ast to the highly prized objective--Paris!

The our tremendously valiant record of fighting and victories in the first days of the campaign never reached the public eye, our efforts since have been cited by the War Correspondents and Public Relations writers that have been with us. Now we are getting the publicity we deserve!

General McElain stressed the importance of keeping the "Jerries" moving, never giving them a chance to rest or set up. By doing this, he stated, we can overrun them and out-flank them.

Many times the Germans have been "just a step" behind us, as we very well know. Our experience with their bombers at St. Hillare is just one instance!

The Division Commander also recommended the use of lesser roads when we go to rear areas. The German operations "zero in" on main roads and cross roads."

The Regimental Commander also brought out the fact that we will now use the black and white instead of the present "Utopia" signs. He also reminded his officers that maps now would be limited, and suggested they make proper adjustments. S-2 and CIC were informed that they would, hereafter, find that the French Underground would be a more organized unit.

By noon all road blocks and mines had been picked up by the 315th Engrs., and at 1300 the Regiment was ordered to be prepared to move on a two hour notice, any time after 1500.

During the afternoon, Lt. Col. Lewis met War Correspondents and Public Relief representatives at Division. At last, our Division and Regiment was to receive mail.

Shortly before 1300, G-2 arrived at the CP and learned the probable moves of the 2d Fr. Arm. He informed the Reg'l Cdr that 300 enemy tanks had been located, that the air corps was now "working at them." The G-2 also informed the CP that the 20th Division was "lagging up" behind the 9th Division, as our rapidity of movement gave us no time for such operations.

At this time, two officers of the 2d French Arm entered the CP and conferred with Major White concerning the pending orders and of raising Alouette.

As we were to have a two hour rest-over, Lt. Col. Clarke ordered that the men be given a hot dinner, and that they be allowed to go swimming. This was still unobtainable, and was most certainly appreciated, as these days were very hot and sultry.

At 1615 Lt. Col. Millwall notified Lt. Col. Clarke that R-Hour would be 0600, 11 August, also that Divis on would furnish trucks.

At 1700 the Regiment was informed by G-2 that the enemy tanks were still a potential threat, but that the Air Corps was still blasting them.

Orders were now issued to the Battalions, by Capt. Shipps, concerning the movement of 1st Bn, which was alerted for any move on two hours notice and its CO, Major Lytle was ordered to the CP.

Lt. Col. Clarke conferred with Capt. Hidget, 115th Regt, on the use of the Regt in the forthcoming operations. The Reg'l Cdr then ordered that the men be briefed on the coming operations that they be informed how well they had done in the past.

At this time, Lt. William Wynn, Lt. O, reported the position of the 2d French Armored as a line from St. Remond-Sur-Authie to Rameau, and that they are still moving and meeting no organized resistance.

During the early part of the evening, Maj Lt. Col. Clarke and Lt. Col. Lewis discussed the feasibility of assembling a platoon of Engineers to accompany the 1st Bn. It was decided that they could be useful in laying road mines, road blocks, etc.. The Engineers were informed of the plan.

At 2000 the CP learned that just ahead of us the 2d Fr. Arm was meeting resist at Hailon, and 88 fire at Le Seylon, and the enemy troops in nearby woods. They sent out a Bn to take care of the 2 bushion. All in all, the progress of the 2d Arm was not as rapid or as smooth as expected.

At 2200 hours the CP informed Lt. Col. Clarke that the movement would be by R-shuttle. Bus (including the 1st) would move at 0600, 11 August.

11 August 1944

358th Infantry

"Battalions to move out at 0600." So read out FO #12. Our team, comprised of the following units: 358th Inf., 30th FA, 69th Armd Bn, Co B, 315th Reg, Co B 315th Med and Col F, 207th GP received this order at 0530. Destination of the GP was still north, with 2d Fr. Armd lead sq. At 0530 Capt Shippe moved out with guides and with the mission of selecting detouring areas.

Major Richard left GP at 0530 and contacted G4, 2d Fr. Armd north of Ballon and acquainted him of the 358th GP plans.

At 0530 Major Falvey received necessary information regarding the positions of friendly troops around us.

Jump-off time! Everything went smoothly. 3d Bn moved, ahead, and detoured at 0700 in vicinity of 7354308. Vehicles were on the way back for the 2d Bn, 1st Bn was still holding the river crossing.

Another important day, and a hot one, was under way! 358th new GP, which will move by bounds, was not, at 0730, at 7884296. 2d Armd was expected to clear Ballon by 1000 hours, with the GP 358 right on its rear. Our objective—line from Alençon to Sées.

At 0900 all was going well and Division notified of the progress. Now the road blocks that had served their purpose in our rear were removed. Orders were issued that foot troops would march on "shoulders" of road so as to facilitate motor movement.

Approximately 1130 the Reg'l GP moves to 4258382. At this GP, Donald Grant, correspondent for "Look Magazine" interviewed the Regimental Commander, Lt. Col. Clarke. Lt. Col. Clarke decided to remain at the present GP until the 2d Armd cleared the roads. He believed we were following them too closely. The roads were certainly "jammed".

At 1140 the French Division reported that the bridge at 371593 was blown! A hasty reconnaissance, however, showed that a secondary road to the right, which would skirt the bridge, was open and clear.

Division, at 1230, ordered the Regiment to close columns and to occupy and secure Beaumont-Sur-Sarthe, and to await further orders. By 1300 positions were closed, as ordered, and 1st Bn was ordered to occupy and secure the city.

By 1335 the bridge, south of Beaumont-Sur-Sarthe was reported blown. 1st Bn reported their GP at 395577, at La Blang. St. Mathews, in Pilot, informed GP that he had seen forward elements at Ruisse Fontaine and La Rutte. Their firing was to the north and east. There were fires in Alençon. No dust was visible to indicate German advance.

At 1350 and another order from Division. "GP 358 will provide ground protection for the crossing of the Orne River. Any elements of the French Division at this point will be relieved by 358th troops."

At 1400 1st Bn was ordered to provide the protection. Infantry, AF and mines would be used, and not more than one rifle squad at each point.

By 1500 the bridge (previously blown) was again in. 1st Bn was in contact with the 106th Cav. 2d Bn was in position. All Bns were ordered to furnish their own local security. Major Davis, G4, reported that the civilian situation was well in hand. The French were rumored to begin attacking at 1500. The GP 358 was now in a triangular defensive position and would "sit tight" until further orders.

By 1600 the position of elements of the 5th Armd were reported. A reconnaissance for a new GP set out and chase one about six miles up the road. The GP was informed at 1730 that resistance ahead was becoming stiffer. Six tank tanks had been lost. The order of movement to the new areas: 2d Bn, followed by the 3d Bn. AF defenses set up by Lt. Grubbs. One Artillery would face west and the other one north.

11 August 1944

Lt. Col's Clarke and Loomis arranged for one Artillery
flank protection, hereby releasing the Cannon Co. The Cannon
remains in the CP area.

By 2100 the CP was opened in the vicinity of Renee. Division confirmed that
the CP 353 had closed in at 2130.

At 2315—"Jump-off time for 12 August, 0800!"—by foot and by motor.

0950 - Order from Division: "Be prepared to move at 0900 - not before." All units were notified by Lt. Shelton, Ass't S-2.

All was quiet now until 0530 when several shots were fired. They seemed to come from the 3d Bn area. At 0630 the 1st Platoon, headed by Lt. Hogen, moved out on a reconnaissance. The new direction of advance, it was learned, would be toward La Hutte.

0845 and elements of the 2d Fr Armd Div were in Alencon and the 5th Armd was in Sees. At 0850 G-3 ordered GP 358 to put a strong garrison at La Hutte, to leave observation on at Mont Briquet and to pull all troops south of Beaumont. By 0920 all units were briefed on the new plans. The 3d Bn was to reach Cherence at 1115. The 2d Bn was to start through at 1115.

At 1020 the 3d Bn closed out and at 1030 the 2d Bn closed out. The GP was in radio contact with both Bns. The 359th Inf. Reg't submitted their positions.

At 1125 the GP moved forward to 380685. By 1230 the 3d Bn was on the high ground north of Mont Briquet, and at 1250, 1st Bn GP was at La Hutte. By 1300 the 359th Inf. was in possession of positions of all adjacent units.

Capt. Burns, S-3 3d Bn, reported at 1320 that the Germans were intercepting our radio messages. Likewise, we were intercepting theirs. The GP moved again and opened at 336712W (1/4 mile south of Lacoste) at 1400.

At 1430 the orders were to go to a point just south of Alencon, astride the road. Reinforced Company to provide road blocks to the east. Shuttling was authorized. Everything south of Frassy to pull out. Motor patrols to be initiated. Objective of 2d Fr Armd. - Carouges. Our mission is to protect left and left rear of Division. 1st Bn will make reconnaissance of new area and place Bn GP in centralized location of troop disposition. 2d Bn will furnish road blocks.

By 1515 the new GP at 332684 was opened. Units were now informed of assembly areas and orders pertaining to them were issued.

Civilians reported the disquieting information at 1630, that there were 100 German tanks at Hiloque. Between 1630 and 1800 various reports, from various sources, informed the GP of tanks to our immediate front.

At 1815 the Reg't learned much of the enemy situation. Many Panzer Divisions were in our general vicinity, or capable of coming there. Also many Infantry units were reported as off our east flank.

Division reported, at 1830, that the 2d Fr. Armd had met pocket resistance at 280755. (No report as to whether they by-passed or still there). The CO, 357th Inf. reported 200 tanks in vicinity. (Butte Beaumont) 106th Cav. reported small arms fire fights.

2d Bn was in position at 1805. At 2120 Lt. Col. Clarke conferred with Major Schultz as to advantages, pro and con, of shuttling troops to the front.

An enemy plane flew over us at 2235. It did not fire or bomb. Major Nichols requested Division to silence the AA fire.

100 Germans, "armed to the teeth" were reported to be terrorizing civilians at Ancines up to Bourg Le Roi.

At 2310 2d and 3d Bns were notified to be ready to move at any time after 1100 tomorrow, as was Cannon Co. 2nd Bn was warned they might move a short distance north at 0800.

13 August 1944

HISTORY

358th Infantry.

The day of the 13th started off with a bang! Two bombs dropped in "K" Co area! However, no casualties were reported. The 106th Cav reported only one bridge across river good for vehicles - between DOIULETT LA JOSIER and ALENCON. By 0046, the 1st Bn had not contacted the enemy but had, through the Engrs, received PW's from the 2nd Fr. Armd.

The 1st Bn, during the night, reported "OK" on the hour.

At 0315, Division reported a column of enemy tanks moving East, from ARGENTAN. At 0630, G-3 was informed that everything, excepting the bombing, was okay during the night. At 0710, the Reg't was told it might move around 0900 into area occupied by the 357th. All units were notified. 2nd Bn was informed, it would move at 0920, and block roads leading NW and W out of ALENCON, and make reconnaissance for patrolling while troops were moving.

At 0905, Major Nichols stated that the Division would move, the 358th would stay where it was and back up the 1st Bn. Our mission was to defend the West flank.

At 0945, Major Nichols phoned G-3 and asked if we would remain in position long enough to award some medals. He was told to make the awards today.

At this time Reg't received the orders:

"Secure line of the SARTHE RIVER North of Check Pt. 77.

One Bn (mtzd) move to vic of ck pt 60 and send one (1) company to ck pt. 77 and one to ck pt. 76. Secure line of the SARTHE RIVER, making contact with adjacent Regiment on the North, and with our 1st Bn on the South.

Units concerned were briefed on this plan.

I, L, M, Co's were to entruck at a point to be designated by the Bn CO. Lt. Rudes would make arrangements to go aloft in the Cub Plane to reconnoiter the terrain. "K" Co could be relieved immediately from road block mission by the AT Co and Engineers.

1051 - the regiment learned that the XX Corps had attacked earlier in the morning with SEES and CAROUCHE as their objective. The 80th Div would come up behind us.

Lt. Col. Clarke ordered Liaison established with the 80th Div. He also ordered AT defences at BALLON be "pulled out".

Lt. Flynn left to contact the 80th Div at 1100.

At 1115, the I & R platoon reported enemy resistance in COLUMBIERS. The CO, 1st Bn, was notified that 80 horse-drawn vehicles, 40 tanks and 5 heavy trucks were moving NE at 160782.

At 1145, the I & R reported 100 tanks in vic of RADON, an enemy OP 700 yards South of RADON and enemy Machine Guns at FOUGES.

At 1212, the 1st Bn was notified to "push out further" but not to break completely until 3rd Bn was contacted. Major La Forge received this order.

During the afternoon, trucks were received to motorize the 3rd Bn. "Big Picture" was received. Contacts were established. Local defense of CP area was set-up. Orders were issued to mine and prepare for demolition, all roads and bridges in 1st and 2nd Bn sectors. Guards would be placed over them.

At 1358, personnel to receive awards were ordered to the CP. Foreign markings were ordered removed from all vehicles.

The 3rd Bn (mtzd) pulled out at 1400. 2nd Bn placed a platoon on road block left by "K" Co.

At 1545, 1st Bn reported "no enemy contact or observed East or West of SARTHE RIVER.

At 1600, General Weafer presented awards to officers and enlisted men of the 358th. (names)

At 1650, the I & R platoon reported from ST DENIS that they had captured 19 PW's (1 Captain); killed 6 and released an English soldier who had been captured.

At 1703, the Germans announced that we have "closed the trap." At 1712 the 2nd Fr. A.D. were moving into CAROUGES, the head of the column at MORTREE, 5 miles beyond.

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13 August 1944

HISTORY

358th Infantry

The I & R now reported 200 enemy at ROVIGNY. 3rd Bn was notified (as L Co was enroute there).

At 1730, L Co reported they had captured a German CP still in operation. 3rd Bn reported that the 80th Div was "all over the roads".

At 1800, G-3 ordered a physical block to keep the 80th Div out of our sector.

The 1st Bn reported "no change" in enemy situation. The 1st and 3rd Bns to contact hourly at a bridge in ST CINERI le GERE, where the SARTHE and SARTHOU RIVERS join.

At 2115 - 3rd Armd, VII Corps, captured a whole German Division!q.

At 2120 - "No orders tonight!"

At 2220 - check point system had been compromised by the enemy. A new one was to be issued.

Lt. Chisholm, new Motor Officer for ^{Reg't.} ~~II/34~~ Lt. Lampo, new Regt'l Comm O.

At 2240, Major Falvey reported that the 2nd Fr. Armd have elements in ARGENTIAN. The Reg't had defences completed for the night.

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By [Signature] NARA Date 12/9

14 August 1944

HISTORY

358 Infantry

During the hours 0001 to 0600 all was quiet. Attempts were made to contact the 1st Bn, but to no avail. Poor radio weather was assumed to be the answer. At 0105 Lt. Aughtry and Lt. Mannix brought two PW's to the Cage. At 0415 Lt. Donahue was informed by Lt. Victor (357) that men from 357 and 3d Bn had been in contact (at contact point) all night. Lt. Rudes, 3d Bn, was notified of this. At 0417 Lt. Donahue tried to contact 1st Bn through 3d Bn. 3d Bn reported "All quiet during the night." They also stated that contact with the 1st Bn had been made as early as 0330.

At 0710 1st Bn reported "Ok" as of 0600 and as of 0700. At 0715 G-3 notified Regiment that tanks were "along road where it enters forest" north of Alencon and moving west. Also that there were tanks northeast of Alencon (2 $\frac{1}{2}$ K).

Major Falvey, at 0717, notified 2d and 3d Bns of the tanks and then sent Lt. Hougen (I&R) on mission to investigate them. At 0820 1st Bn reported "OK". Lt. Clark came in from Division: "Nothing New - nothing happening." At 0835 Lt. Drury of the Divis on Staff passed along information received from the Division Arty: "30 enemy tanks moving SE at 405195". At 0853 I&R reported "North 67 OK".

1st Bn reported "OK" as of 0900. Lt. Clark warned that the Regiment may move up west of Sees. Major Nichols went to Division for information.

The I&R Platoon reported it had investigated the Tank situation NE of Alencon. "Nothing there." 2d and 3d Bns were notified. Lt. Col. Clarke left for Division. He stated that the 357 and 359 were to "mop-up" the Forest, north of Alencon, and that the 358th would "stand by". At 0950 Major Falvey left for rear echelon to recommend men for awards.

At 0955 Lt. Col. Clarke called from Division. He wanted the I&R to check points 65, 69 and Forges. At 1000 1st Bn reported "No enemy activity". It was decided that the 693d Arty would remain in place and protect the 1st Bn.

At 1045 Lt. Col. Clarke stated that because of the extensive "mopping up" that we were very likely to stand by, and directed that the men take this opportunity to clean up and take care of their weapons and equipment.

At 1100, 1st Bn reported "No change". A PW, captured by the 343d FA stated Germans were planning a counter-attack at 1200. Lt. Dengler stated none of his other prisoners made any mention of this.

1200 hours: Capt Jaffary, 3d Bn, reported duds in 3d Bn area. He requested that the Engineers remove them. He also stated that he was in receipt of a note from an American who was a prisoner of the Germans. The note had been "slipped" to a French civilian who had delivered it. The American's name was "CUTTER, ASN 33146592.

At 1250 Lt. Col. Clarke reported that the 5th Armd and the 2d Fr Arms had been pushed back and that the "Jerries" were trying to widen the escape corridor. Also stated he may get orders to have 1st Bn "close-up" today. Lt. Collins, 315th Engrs reported that his men were working on the streets in Alencon and that he would remove the duds in 3d Bn area later.

By 1345 Major Nichols had instructed 2d Bn to put out security and to keep companies in respective areas, even though there was no definite order of movement as yet. Capt. Shipe and Lt. Flynn left to visit all Bns and units to get their exact locations.

"No enemy activity at 1500" reported the 1st Bn. "65, 69 and 68 - our troops moving forward--nothing else to report" this message was received from the I&R at 1512.

At 1512, Major Falvey, who had been "up front" reported 2d Fr. Armd as moving east. the 1st Bn reported at 1600 "No enemy activity".

At 1605 came some news; meager though it was, it was most welcome. Lt. Clark said that an Air Corps Lieutenant reported he had talked with our Lt. Col. Seeger, who was captured on the "Island"! Just that!

Lt. Clark also stated that General Patton had "high regard for the 90th" and was making an effort to send correspondents to us so as to enable us to get more publicity.

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By 43r NARA Date 12/9

14 August 1944

HISTORICAL

358th Infantry

At 1815, the 80th Division was being withdrawn to the left rear. The 358th expected to move no part of the Regiment until tomorrow. Lt. Rudes reported that he had picked up messages dropped by men of "L" Co., 26th Inf, 1st Div, who had been captured. Messages were sent to CO, 26th Inf.

At 1925 Lt. Clark said that the CG had stated informally, that it would be wise to assemble the Regiment, because we would get only two hours notice for our move. At 1938 the 357th complained that they were having trouble contacting the 358th patrols. The 1st Bn reported "OK" at 2000 hours.

By 2010 G-3 had notified Major Nichols that the Regiment be alerted and ready to move by 0900 in the morning. The 1st Bn was to leave road blocks at ~~Fresne-Sur-Sarthe~~ Fresne-Sur-Sarthe and west of Gouge le Ganelon and a warning ~~group~~ group (listening post) at le Gerel, and assemble around the Reg'l CP. The 3d Bn was to stay in position until relieved by the 357th. The 3d Bn was notified by Major Nichols. A deal, giving the 357th 15 trucks, ~~was~~ was completed.

At 2040 Division informed Lt. Col. Clarke that our present orders were supplemented with directions to motorize patrols over 1st and 2d Bn areas. At 2115 Major Nichols conferred with the Engineers on the "pulling out" of road blocks in the event we leave early in the morning.

By 2200 the 1st Bn was picking up posts along the river. 3d Bn was to be relieved by the 357th in the morning. The rest of the Regiment was to assemble and be prepared to move east.

At 2230, Lt. Shelton returned from the 5th Armd. Their front lines along line south of Argentan - Nexmes - Gace. Recon. elements being pushed to Lagal. They are faced to the north by the (elements) of 116th Pz Div, and on the east by an unidentified element of Infantry.

Authority NND 735017

By *for* NARA Date 12/9

14 Aug 44

The following order of the day has been published by the Supreme Commander: To all soldiers, sailors, and airmen - through your combined skill, valor and fortitude, you have created in France a fleeting but definite opportunity for a major Allied victory. One whose realization will mean notable progress toward the final downfall of our enemy. In the past I have in moments of unusual significance made special appeals to Allied forces it has been my honor to command. Without exception the response has been unstinted and the result beyond my expectations. Because the victory we can now achieve is infinitely greater than any it has been so far possible to accomplish in the West and because this opportunity may be grasp only through the utmost and zeal, determination, and speedy action, I make my present appeal to you more urgent than ever before. I request every airman to make it his direct responsibility that the enemy is blasted unceasingly by day and by night and is denied safety either in flight or in plight. I request every sailor that no part of the hostile forces can either escape or be reinforced by sea and that our comrades on the land want nothing that guns and ships and ship's companies can bring to them. I request every soldier to go forward to his assigned objective with a determination that the enemy can survive only through surrender. Let no foot of ground once gained be relinquished nor a single German escape through a line once established.

With all of us resolutely performing our special tasks, we can make this week a momentous one in the history of this War; a brilliant and fruitful week for us, a fateful one for the ambitions of the Nazi tyrants.

Signed:

Dwight D. Eisenhower

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By JGR NARA Date 12/9

15 August 1944

HISTORY

358th Infantry

0001 - 90th Division now in V Corps!

No change in enemy front lines. Small contact was made with isolated groups. The units to our front, that were positively identified consisted of elements of 3 Pz Div, an SS Division, an Infantry Division, a march Bn, and previously recorded units. Several enemy aircraft flew over the 358th area during the night, but no bombs were dropped and no artillery fire was received. PW's were consistent in stating that German units were disorganized. A PW stated that a Para. Div had been brought to "Somewhere in this vicinity" from Hamburg.

0050 - Lt. Jack L. Goodman, 3rd Bn Comm O., reports that two of the seven vehicles he was to have turned in were being used as "decoys" in an ambush. At 0300, Lt. Everett, G-3 Section, reported activities of the 359th, both actual and proposed. At 0320, 3rd Bn stated that they had made physical contact with 1st Bn and the 359th (I on left and L on right) at 0200.

0510 and no Civ Order received as yet to move. Lt. Rudes was notified at 0600 that the 35d Bn, 358th, was to be relieved by a Bn from 357. At 0610, there was some small arms firing in the 2nd Bn area, "E" Co thought that they had seen something and had started shooting. G-2 and G-3 called to question the firing and were briefed. Capt. Foster (Arty) notified "No order yet".

At 0745, 3rd Bn was relieved and the troops were shuttled to assembly area. During the night and again at 0800, 1st Bn reported in every hour - "ALL OK".

At 0810, the Reg't heard that the 90th Div was to "block" while the XV Corps drove toward Paris, and that the balance of the V Corps was in Brittany. However, as yet, there was no definite order.

As of 0900, the 607th TD's were detached from the Regt. 1st Bn reported no enemy activity. Major Nichols, S-3, warned 1st Bn that road blocks and mines must be picked up when we leave.

At 0947, Lt. Clark, Div Ln O., phoned and stated that the 358th would go into position in the vicinity North of SEES. Lt. Col. Loomis directed units, as per order of Lt. Col. Clarke, that the troops play strenuous games, and that they clean their weapons. At the same time, the Reg't Comm'r also directed that messes would always carry their basic weapon, regardless of any enemy weapon they have acquired. All units were notified of the above orders.

1010, and "no enemy activity" - 1st Bn. At 1005 Major Nichols notified all units to display the cerise panel, as the air corps was to bomb every German vehicle in our proposed vicinity.

At 1110 Capt Shipe, Ass't S-3, notified ordnance that the 3rd Bn had German Wpns and ammo, and asked that they take care of it. The wpns were to be made unusable.

Lt. Col Stilwell, at 1150, notified Major Nichols that when the 358th assembles in new vicinity, it will place two Bns North of the city, and one Bn south of it. Also that the 358 would receive "SOME" trucks. The Reg't was to move approximately 60 Km North-East of SEES.

1210 - 3rd and 2nd Bns were to start marching at once, and stop North of ALENGON at the RR fork. There they would receive further orders. 3rd Bn to stop on left of main road and 2nd Bn on right side. 1st Bn to stay in position and move by trucks, when vehicles are released by the 359th Inf.

At 1215, the CP was in receipt of a news flash that the landing had been effected on the Southern coast of France!

At 1220, movement orders and plans were: All units would move at one time. 358 was to have 51 vehicles (half of them in 30 minutes). Lt. Chishalm left for QM to get them. When 3rd Bn was transported, the vehicles would pick up the 2nd Bn. Lt. Flynn Lt. O., set out to post the guides. Capt. Shipe left for new CP with Quartering Party. All units concerned were briefed by Major Nichols on the movement.

At 1300, 1st Bn reported "OK". Lt. Shelton, Ass't S-2, warned Bn's not to separate vehicles from troops but to keep them close for protection.

At 1315, 1st Bn was informed that a company of Tanks (412th) would move to vic of GESNE, to protect Div. rear until units cleared ALENGON. 1st Bn was order to send one (1) rifle platoon to GESNE at once to be attached to Tank Co. When Tank Co is relieved, the platoon would "ride the tanks" to new Bn area. The 3rd Bn was notified to maintain heavy weapon protection on road during movement. It was also decided to move the Reg't CP to a temporary location North of SEES until Bns had cleared the city.

Authority NND 735017
 By 13r NARA Date 12/9

15 August 1944

HISTORY

358th Infantry

At 1400 1st Bn reported "OK". By 1450, all units were ready to move.

At 1500, Lt. Col's. Clarke and Loomis were at the temporary GP and discovered the 3rd Bn area unsuitable. Lt. Col Clarke left for a reconnaissance for a better one. At 1511, the head of the 3rd Bn was passing The GP.

Lt. Col. Clarke, at 1545, ordered that steps be taken to secure combat Infantry Badges for deserving troops.

At 1546, Lt. Donohue, Ltn O., reported confusion concerning delivery of trucks to our regiment, and at 1600 Lt. Col. Loomis left for G-3 to explain the situation. At 1700 again, 1st Bn reported "No enemy activity".

At 1707, Lt. Col. Clarke informed Lt. Col. Bealke, at the GP, that he was to start shuttling troops in-so-far as trucks had not arrived. 2nd Bn was also notified. Separate units were to shuttle with their own vehicles. At 1725, I & R reported points 1, 2, 3, 4 as OK, and at 1800 1st Bn reported "OK".

By 2000 hours, the Reg'l GP at CHAILLONE (466348E) was established and 1st Bn reported still "OK". 3rd Bn and Serv Co reported "closed in". At 2040 Major Falvey, S-2, requested Div to furnish a "Sitrep" of the entire Division. TD's with Co "E" would close in about 1½ hours from now. At 2055, AT reports it had closed in at 1930, and 1st Bn closed in at 2100. A & P "closed in" with 3rd Bn at 2115, and wires were now in with the 1st and 3rd Bn's and Division. At 2130, Division was notified of the above also that 2nd Bn had closed in at 2030. Overlays were now being received from the units. All units were warned to dig-in and be prepared in the event of a counter-attack.

At 2245, 3rd Bn was ordered to put a road block (plat with AT gun and mines) 3½ Km East of SEMS. "I" Co was the company chosen.

At 2320, Lt. Col. Clarke requested full account of the capture (by the I&R) of the 8 EM and 1 Officer.

By 2345, Co "I" reported road block in position.

16 August 1944

HISTORY

358th Infantry

During the early morning hours, an undetermined number of enemy planes flew over the area but no bombs or flares were dropped. Tellermines were found by the Engineers in the streets of Alencon, buried beneath the cobblestones. No artillery shelled our positions. A PW (officer) stated we should mount our flags higher on ambulances, so as not to be fired upon. The enemy situation to our front was unchanged.

Also during the hours of darkness, "E" Co. and its road block was completed and they were ready for any emergency. Cannon Co. observers were with them. Security of the units and the CP were completed.

At 0600 Division was notified of our activities during the night. "K" Co. captured 28 EM and 2 officers, which were put in 106th Cav. vehicles, and up to 0810 had not been seen or heard from. At 0907 2 platoons of the 607th TD's were assigned to 2d Bn. At 1000 Capt Barndt arrived and made arrangements to pay troops, and he was royally received!

By 1100 the "K" Co. prisoners were located and sent to the Division PW Cage.

Until 1300 all was fairly quiet and then came the report that enemy artillery was falling on the city of Almenches and also on the 2d Bn. Major Nichols requested "air" on the German guns. 2d Bn reported 15 rounds had fallen on them. The guns seemed to be located in the woods north of the city.

At 1355, General Weaver arrived at the CP. He was briefed on the situation. He stated that we were definitely still in XV Corps. He was particularly anxious about our defenses. At 1415 the General left for 2d Bn to inspect its defenses. At just this time, Major Schultz, CO 2d Bn, reported that a shell landed in his CP and he believed it caused two casualties. (These casualties were later confirmed. T/Sgt. Scharf, Bn Sgt. Major and Sgt. Slaughter, Commo. Chief were killed)

Major Nichols, at 1417, requested the 344th FA to send its Cub plane aloft to locate the German gun. At about this time the ~~352~~ 359th Inf reported that German vehicles were heading east on the road between Argentan and Le Bourg St Leonard. This road lies on the southern border of the Forêt de Gouffern.

Lt. Col Clarke was now concerned about our 2d Bn and he 'phoned Major Schultz. He directed that they be prepared for any emergency. He now learned that the ~~352~~ 359th had been attacked at Le Bourg St Leonard.

At 1450 Major Falvey warned all units of the attack. Division reported 3,000 troops and many vehicles on the Argentan - Le Bourg St. L. road. Lt. Col. Loomis directed 2d Bn to dispatch a reliable patrol to this road and get first hand information. Major Nichols phoned 1st Bn and instructed them to be ready for a march in the event that the 359th needed help.

At 1505 the artillery plane reported that it could see no movement on the road, but that it could not see the whole road.

1550, and "A" Co., 359, was back in Le Bourg St. L. All units were notified of the new 359 situation.

1630 - Capt. Shipe left to pay officers of the 1st Bn. 2d Bn reported no shelling now for one and one-half hours.

At 1645 Lt. Flynn, directed by Major Falvey, left for the 2d Fr. Armd to get definite status of Alencon. At 1655 G-3 was notified that the 2d Bn patrol had not contacted enemy as yet.

At 1656 Lt. Col Clarke 'phoned 2d Bn CO and stated CO directed "A" Co., 359, be contacted. He was also instructed to maintain a road block on main road running north to Almenches on North side of road. General Devine (arty) claimed enemy holds hill 171. Lt. Col. Clarke stated he believed artillery shelling this PM was the work of a spy. Major Schultz reported casualties as two men killed and 5 men wounded from the shelling.

By 1715 Major Schultz reported that the 2d Bn patrol had gone up the highway to Bordeaux and ran into a hasty mine field. No foot troops contacted. Mine field was unprotected.

Lt. Clark, Div. In. O., reported that the 5th armd was north of Dreux and the 79th Div was south of Dreux. 7th Armd was at Chartres as of 1200. The 357th was assembling at Colombes, preparing to follow the 79th. At 1810, Capt Beville, fired on two German bicycle troops at 250135. At 1815 "A" Co. 359, was in a fire fight with four tanks. B-I-K-L co's were on the way to help.

Authority NND 735017

By 43r NARA Date 12/9

16 August 1944 (pg 2)

HISTORY

358th Infantry

At 1840, previous orders to 2d Bn were superceded and the following issued by Major Nichols: "2d Bn to proceed north, through Forest to this side of La Carne. One company to be placed astride road, just north of La Carne and one company to outpost."

At 1845 Lt. Flynn returned with the positions of the 2d Fr. Armd. Lt. Clark reported elements of the 121st were in th outskirts of Paris!

At 1900, Major Nichols informed 3d Bn of the 2d Bns move and ordered them to reconnoiter a route from their present position to Almenches. The move would be by foot. An AT mine platoon was to be sent to 2d Bn at 2015.

At 1950 the platoon of the 1st Bn with the 712th Tank outfit were moving to rejoin the Bn. Major Falvey informed G-2 that the French had informed our "E" Co. that road and field entrances on the E-W road to Argentan were mined. At 2005 a message was received for the CO (with small party) of 1st Bn to meet General Weaver at the 359 CP. At this time 1st Bn started to move to La Cochere. At 2020 the 359 was in a hot fight at Le Bourg-St-Leonard. G-3 advised that th CO 2d Bn confer with General Weaver at the 359 CP as 2d Bn was nearer than 1st Bn. Major Nichols notified 2d Bn - told them to continue their march.

2030 - Lt. Col. Clarke suggested OP at La Carne. 2100 - Report that enemy has worked around 1st Bn, 359. Lt. Col. Manson, (arty) and Major Conn (arty) left CP to contact the 915th Artillery and lend them some help. The TD outfit phones and asked for protection for their isolated sect ons. Major Nichols informed them that we were tied up and suggested they contact 2d Fr Armd.

At 2125 Lt. Donahue phones - that CO's Lytel and Schultz, 1st & 2d Bns, were at the 359 CP. Our Bns were now to go back to original plans. 3d Bn, 359, had arrived and relieved the situation and were taking prisoners. The 2d Fr. Armd was now 3K south of Argentan and had contacted enemy and was meeting considerable resistance.

At 2200, Major Nichols issued the following order to Lt. Col. Bealke, 3d Bn CO: "Move at 170630 to Marmoville, turn west to an assembly area immediately north of Almenches. May shuttle if you desire to. Let us know if you do. March will be five miles. The Reg't will post guides. Quartering party to be at Reg'l CP at 170615. your column will have priority on road. Motor elements will not move until you close in in new area. "I" Co. will be relieved in the morning and returned to you."

Major Nichols instructed I & R Platoon to move at 0630 in front of column. Reg'l CP would move at 0730.

At 2245 Lt. Col. Bealke reported he would shuttle his troops. Major Nichols attached AT Mile Platoon and AT Co. to Hqtrs for the move.

Authority NNDT 735017
 By 43r NARA Date 12/9

GT 358
 17 Aug 44

F. O. No. 15

MAPS: France, 1/50,000 G.S.G.S.

1. Enemy forces identified as 3 Bns of the SS Das Reich Panzer Div reinforced by 20 tanks, SP guns, and arty hold the forest GOUFFERN. It is believed that a strong attempt will be made to prevent junction of Allied forces in the pocket. A mine field is reported along southern edge of FORET DE GOUFFERN.

2. V Corps (Fr 2nd Arm Div, 50th and 90th Divs) attacks 180800 Aug to capture ARMENTAN HILL-129 (394499).

90th Div with Fr 2nd Arm Div on its left and 80th Div on the far left attacks with regiments abreast 359 on right, 358th on left.

358th Inf with Co C 712th Tk Bn attached attacks in column of Bns in the order of 1st, 2nd.

3. a. 1st Bn, from its present positions, crosses LD 180800 following route shown on overlay, seizes objective A, objective B, and secures that portion of Div Objective within regimental zone. LD - trail crossing of creek at (335195).

b. 2nd Bn remain in present position prepared to follow the 1st Bn on order. The reserve company will be prepared to ride on medium tanks to seize either objective A or B.

c. 3d Bn, in Regt'l reserve, from present position recompute routes to assembly area along North edge of PETIT FORET DE GOUFFERN. Reserve Bn will be committed only on order from Div Hq.

d. On Co, from its present position, initially, support the attack with particular attention to regimental left flank.

e. AT Co, with 1 Plat in direct support of 1st Bn, coordinate the AT defenses of the regiment for the attack. In the event the plan involving the combined rifle company-tank company team is used, 1 AT platoon will follow the tank advance and secure the objective from counter-attack by enemy tanks.

f. Co C, 712th Tk Bn, remain in present positions, prepared to execute an attack in conjunction with reserve company of 2nd Bn to exploit any early success of the attack.

1st Plat, Co B, 315th Eng, make reconnaissance along the path of the attack, assist in preparing vehicular crossings of the creek at the LD, remove mines and obstacles to vehicle and tank advance, construct road blocks on order.

x. (1) Green or yellow fluorescent panels will be exposed on the maximum number of vehicles.

(2) Air support missions on call.

(3) 344th FA Bn in direct support.

h. Verbal instructions later.

5. a. Regt'l CP - initially, no change.

b. Wire communications between regiment and each attacking Bn will be maintained.

c. Division check points issued separately.
 SOI - no change.

cial: NICHOLS, S-3

REVISION:

1st Bn, On Co; AT Co; Hq Co/

G-3, Co C 712th Tk Bn

st Co B 315th Eng; 344th FA

CLARKE
 Comig

Authority NND 735017
 By 13r NARA Date 12/9

17 August 1944

HISTORY

358th Infantry

Division F.O. No. 21

90th Inf Div
 Vic SEES
 170300B Aug 44

"F.O." No. 21

1. b. Prov. Corps (2d Fr. Armd Div, left, and 90th Inf Div., right, 80th Inf Div. Res) attacks M-Hour 17 Aug 44, to seize and hold THUN. The 5th TD. Gp. will support the attack.

3. a. 358 Inf (minus 2nd Bn) with 1 Med Tk Co attached:

- (1) Attacks within zone at M-Hour to seize successive objs shown on overlay.
- (2) Assault Bn will close fwd assembly area by 0900.
- (3) It will establish a road block at vic. 470510.
- (4) 2nd Bn 358th Inf reverts to Regt '1 control on Div order.

d. Div Arty:

Atchd: 537 AAA (AW) Bn (m)
 607 TD Bn (T)
 989 FA Bn (155 Rifles)

Supports the attack of the Div. Priority of fires after M-Hour to the 358th Inf.

x. (1) Assault Regts will initiate calls for air support by the most expeditious means.

MCCLAIN
 Comdg.

STILLWELL

G-3

Immediately following receipt of the Div Order the 358th Inf issued its F.O. 44 with overlay. (This order is attached).

At 0005 Major Falvey reported to G-3 that the I & R Platoon had discovered an ammo dump in the FORET DE GOUFFERN. It was estimated that 500 tons of ammo was there. He also estimated that many more tons were located in the FORET. He also notified 2nd Bn of the dump and order it be destroyed if a counter-attack came.

At 0028 Major Nichols 2nd Bn to obtain accurate information regarding the dump and its exact location so that it could be fired by Arty if the 358 was forced to leave it. He also informed Major Scholz to report immediately to Gen. Weaver at the 359th 1st Bn GP.

At 0110, Lt. Col. Clarke was ordered to Div and left at 0205 and returned at 0245. Lt. Col. Clarke now studied the situation and notes he had taken down at Div, and at 0330 passed the following information and order on to Major Nichols:

"Prov. Corps (no number) has Major Gen. Gaffey Commanding. It consists of the 80th Inf Div, the 90th Inf Div, and the 2nd Fr. Armd. Div. The mission is to close the gap. The 359th Inf (to be relieved by 357th) will attack the first objective with the 358th Inf at/after 0900 on Corps Order to THUN. The Canadians are there now. Bns do not need to be informed yet. 3rd Bn can march, by motor, vic LA COCHERE, not on main North-South road, at General's suggestion, since it will be used by trucks shuttling. 3rd Bn should beqNorth of the river, closed on tail of 1st Bn by 0900. (Lt. Col. Clarke was no sure whether 2nd Bn would participate. It depends on whether "E" Co can cover enough of sector. They might be used less "E" Co). Arty priority goes to 358th Inf.

At 0620, the 359th Inf reported an attack by Tanks. Major Nichols immediately notified Major Lytle, 1st Bn CO., of this. Reg't was informed that "I" would be

Authority NND 735017

By JBR NARA Date 12/9

17 August 1944

HISTORY

358th Infantry

released about 0800. At 0634, Major Nichols notified 2nd Bn that their mission was to be the same as planned. Initially, they are attached to 359 and come under their control.

Lt. Col. Bealke at 0700, stated he would motorize "L" Co and relieve company at EXMES.

At 0715, the jump-off time was moved to 1000, IP EXMES. Units concerned were notified. At 0740, 3rd Bn (-L Co) began moving out. At 0750, 2nd Bn was still receiving Arty fire and some small arms fire. At 0815, L Co was notified to begin moving. Also, that they could return for anything they couldn't take now. The "I" platoon reverted back at 0820.

1st Bn, at 0830, was notified by Ln O., Lt. Flynn, to be at assembly area by 1000. That they were not under control of 359th and would not take orders from the. They were also instructed to be on the alert for a "plain-clothes man" on a bicycle who was working for Major Falvey. At 0840, the following radio msg was dispatched to 1st Bn: Move according to pre-arranged plan, go to IP at once.

2nd Bn was notified at 0910 to keep AT guns in position and ready. At 0915, Lt. Flynn reported 1st Bn "on the way". At 0928, Major Schulz, 2nd Bn CO, reported Arty falling on them was "friendly". This was immediately reported to Div Arty.

At 0931, the CP closed and moved. A new "March CP" was established at GR (456454). 1050 and General Weaver ordered TD's be brought fwd. "E" Co reached GR and contacted enemy tanks. Quite a fight there. The TD's were notified. At 1130, Major Nichols told Major Falvey "we do not move until we get a Corps Order."

By 1200, no time had yet been given for attack. 315th Engrs reported that they were preparing the ammo. dump for demolition.

Lt. Col. Bealke, at 1216, brought a french civilian to our CP. The Frenchman had information that the enemy, with 50 tanks, planned to cut an escape gap through our Infantry. At 1240, Major Nichols informed Lt. Col. Clarke, that for the present, 2nd Bn was attached to 359th Inf.

Major Lytle, CO 1st Bn, phoned for TD's at 1300. Lt. Col. Bealke reported that from the "K" Co OP he could see German vehicles circulating around. Asked if Arty fire couldn't be brought on the. The 344th FA Arty, when contacted by Major Nichols, stated they would send wire connection and observer to the OP. Radio was also to be sent. Lt. Col. Clarke ordered wire connection be made from OP to Regt'l CP. 2nd Bn reported that they had trouble with their bazookas, so Major Falvey had 1st Bn "try theirs out".

The TD's were difficult to locate near the 1st Bn so at 1327 Major Falvey left the CP to contact the Arty and request that their Ln Cub locate them for us. "C" Co reported 3 PW's. M7Sgt Midener, IPW, reported PW's as stating that 500 Mtd SS Troops had attacked with 2 assault guns and 2 tanks at dawn - their objective being the PETIT FORET. They expected to be relieved by Infantry when objective was taken.

At 1410, Lt. Grubbs, AT Co, reported fighting in the 359th Sector as "pretty hot", but "the 2nd Bn seems to be doing OK". He added that "we have a lot of tanks and TD's backing-up the forces." He reported that the enemy was using artillery. Lt. Col. Cooper arrived to pay "B" and "E" Co's. Major Nichols informed 2nd Bn that firing to their rear was practice bazooka firing.

"G" Co Comdr reported wounded at 1520. 2nd Bn situation was unchanged. 1540 and Lt. Col. Clarke and Major Nichols were ordered to report to the CG at Division Hq. At 1545, Capt Nichols, TD's, reported "one German Tank firing from bridge and 2 tanks in the city".

At 1555, Lt. Donohue reported that "G" and "F" Co's were at LE BOURGE ST LEONARD and that there was quite a gap between them. They run into 4 "Tiger" tanks. The Germans are heavily shelling the city, and Gen. Weaver is "on the edge of the city".

At 1615, Lt. Paddock arrived at the CP with a Free French soldier who offered to recommend Frenchmen, who could be trusted, to work for us. He warned that even a Frenchman, bringing in PW's could be a spy. Major Wallace requested that "E" Co come back to Bn. Lt. Col. Loomis called Lt. Col. Clarke at Div, to find out if "E" Co could be released.

At 1630, the Engrs notified the CP that the ammo. dump would take 3 days or more to demolish. Explained it was the size of 300 box-cars! It was too big a job for one platoon. Their company CO contacted for help.

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 By 13r NARA Date 12/9

August 1944

HISTORY

358th Infantry.

At 1645, 16 German tanks and infantry were reported to be in the area. They had cut the road junction East of LE BOURG ST LEONARD. Division reported a "tremendous body of Germans" at 210310 and that the Air Corps was "working on them."

By 1705 "E" Co was released to 2nd Bn.

At 1715, Lt. Col. Clarke stated our orders were:

"90th Inf Div, 80th Inf Div and the 2nd Fr. Armd. revert to V Corps. We attack 0630 tomorrow. 3rd Bn will go in Div Res. as soon as relieved. 80th Div attacks on our left through PETIT FORET. French Armd in Res. 1st and 2nd Bns will attack in a column of Bns with 1st Bn leading."

Major Lytle left Cp to move his Bn into position. Lt. Col. Clarke left for the 2nd Bn. Capt. Whittinghill, Hq Co CO, left to reconnoiter area of (404416) for new CP. By 1830, the points of the 1st Bn passed CP.

At 1900, CP moved to new CP at (412160) and established it at 1940.

The Div FO No. 22 was received at 2020. Lt. Col. Stilwell, G-3, arrived at CP and conferred with Lt. Col's. Loomis and Clarke. GCo to withdraw to the creek. "F" Co not in contact with them.

At 2117, the Regt learned that the 80th Div would attack tomorrow with 1 Regt. Lt. Col. Munson, 344th FA Bn, informed Regt that from a high hill, with "sound and flash" equipment, his organization "picked-up" 12 enemy guns in position and brought 345th FA "down on them!!" Lt. Col. Munson left for Div to obtain white phosphorous shells. He stated he would probably shoot all night.

This was the beginning of a period that was to be known as "An Artillery Man's dream".

At 2215, Canadians were reported to be in THUN. Co "C" of Tanks reported instead of Co "A". Division told us to keep them.

Lt. Clark arrived at CP, confirmed change in jump-off time. Major Schulz, Capt. Beville reported the day's fighting was the "roughest they had seen" - more artillery concentrations from the enemy than ever before.

2300 - 80th Div had moved up on our left and are in ALMENCHES. Major Lytle stated he would commit this Companies in alphabetical order.

Authority NND 735017

By *[Signature]* NARA Date 12/9*This Copy for History*WT 358
17 Aug 1944

F. O. No. 14

Maps: France 1/50,000 G.S.G.S.

1. a. Enemy forces defend to the North and South of escape gap between Canadian and U.S. forces.

1. b. Provisional Corps (2nd Fr Armd Div, 80th Div, 90th Div) commanded by 3rd Army Deputy Comdr, Major Gen. GAFFEY attacks North 17 Aug 44 to contact Canadian army attacking South to TRUN. *90th/Plt*
90th Div attacks to secure high ground vicinity CHAMBOIS 420518.
On the AM 17 Aug 44 357th Inf relieves elements of 359th Inf now maintaining road block at EXMES and to the SE and W.

2. This Regiment attacks NW at H-Hour to secure that portion of the Div Objective within its zone.

Objectives, route of march - see overlay.

Order of March - Ren elements, 1st Bn (Adv Guard), 3rd Bn, 2nd Bn., Cn Co, 1 Med Co 712th Tk Bn.

3. A 1st Bn, with 1 Plat Regt'l AT Co atchd, moves NE on EXMES from present position (La COCHERE) in adv guard formation. It will be halted with its head at the edge of woods (456446) at 170900 Aug. It will resume march on the objective on order from higher headquarters. Upon resumption of the march it will send one reinforced company to objective X and there establish a strong road block facing North and East. The remainder of the battalion will seize and hold objectives A, B, and C attacking them in that sequence.

b. 3rd Bn will move from present positions to close on the rear of the 1st Bn by 170900 Aug. It will resume the advance, dismounted, behind the 1st Bn, prepared to assist in capture of objectives A, B, and C.

c. 2nd Bn (less Co E) when released from present mission will follow the 3rd Bn as Regt'l reserve. Co E will remain in present position until further orders from this Headquarters.

d. Co E mission unchanged. It will revert to control of 2nd Bn when released by this Headquarters.

e. AT Co (less 1 Plat atchd to 1st Bn) furnish AT protection to the column. (SOP)

f. Cn Co remain in direct support of 2nd Bn until 2nd Bn is relieved of present mission, at which time Cn Co will join the Regt'l column immediately behind the foot troops prepared to furnish normal support to advance guard battalion.

g. One Company, 712th Tk Bn, from initial positions at LA COCHERE move behind foot columns by bounds on order of Regimental Commander.

x. (1) Division Arty priority to this Regiment, (after H-Hour).

(2) Attack will progress with maximum effort and speed using arty support to the maximum.

(3) H-Hour will be announced by provisional Corps Headquarters.

(4) Air support missions quickly available on call.

* 4. (later)

5. March CP - between support of advance guard and head of 3rd Bn.
During attack - see overlay.

SOI - Index 01-12

Official:

Nichols
NICHOLS S-3CLARKE
Comdg

* USE DE BRUIN HIGHWAY BETWEEN LE BOURG (402350) AND NONANT DENIED
AND REVERT PRIOR TO 0900.

Authority **NND 735017**
 By **43r** NARA Date **12/9**

18 August 1944

HISTORY

358 Infantry

FO #22

Hq 90th Inf Div
 Vic Sees
 171800 Aug 44

1. a. The main effort against the 90th Inf Div has been in the Le Bourg St Leonard Sector. It is estimated that the enemy forces there comprise three (3) Bns from the SS DAS REICH PZ DIV reinforced by 20 tanks, SP guns and artillery. The enemy has been reported by civilians to be building up a strong force at the present time; intended primarily for defense to the E of the 357th Inf. Estimated strength of a GI.

To the W contact with the 2d Fr Armd is being held in considerable strength by the enemy at Argentan and Stouche.

Due to a considerable decrease in the size of the pocket due to the junction of forces by the VII corps and the British, it is believed that the enemy will continue to exert all possible pressure against the V Corps front in order to hold the gap open to allow continued withdrawal to the NE toward the Seine River.

b. V Corps attacks with Divisions abreast at 180630B (changed to 0800—auth. Change #1) to capture Argentan - Hill 129.

Formation: Divisions abreast: 2d Fr. Armd, 80th Inf, 90th Inf, from left to right.

2. 90th Inf Div:

Atchd: 537th AAA (AW) Bn (m)
 607th TD Bn (T)
 712 TK Bn
 989th FA Bn (155 rifled)
 208th FA Group

Attacks within zone at 180630B, seizes and secures Div Obj (see overlay) and protects right flank of the corps.

Formation: 358th Inf on the left, 359th Inf on the right, 357th Inf in Res.
 LD: Present front lines.

3. a. 358th Inf with Co A, 712 Tk Bn atchd:

- (1) Attacks at 0630B, captures St. Eugene and continues attack to secure that portion of the Div Obj within its zone of action.
- (2) Res Bn will not be committed except on orders from this Hqs.
- (3) Maintain contact with 80th Div on the left.

Stilwell
 G-3

McLain
 Cndg "

From the orders contained in the Division FO the Regiment issued its FO #15 (attached w/overlay and check points)

During the early morning hours disposition of companies were received, rockets were reported going over 2d Bn area, 5 PW's from the 2d SS Das Reich were captured. These PW's stated that they left their unit to collect wounded and found their unit gone when they returned. They also reported that their unit had 5 Mark IV & three Mark V tanks. They believed "that something went wrong!" They were to have been relieved by an Army yesterday! If, by this time, they didn't know what "went wrong" we most certainly could have told them!

The following message was received at 0510 from Division: "It has been reported that Allied troops are in Trun and Chambois. Be careful not to fire on friendly troops during your attack." Units concerned were notified.

0810 - "A" Co. crossed LD on time. 1st Bn crossed creek on time. No resistance. A few prisoners captured. Division was notified.

By 0815 "A" Co was receiving small arms fire from Meguillaume, and at 0850 hit a tank in the vicinity of the church and received mortar fire from the bridge. Now Lt. Col. Clarke directed we contact the 80th Div and exchange locations and plans. Lt Flynn was designated as Ln O. and dispatched. At 0905 1st Bn was still meeting resistance and Lt. Col. Loomis suggested sending tanks to aid them

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358 Infantry

At this time a PW stated that the SS troops had been relieved by A Ren Bn of 60-80 men. the 3d Bn had passed check point 16 going NW toward 37. A PW stated his unit was to be moved around our L and A Co's. B Co was committed to prevent flanking movement. A Co was still receiving much mortar in vic of church.

At 0935 Major Nichols sent Capt Shipe and a Tank Officer to 1st Bn CP and instructed them to report to Lt. Col. Clarke. Lt. Donahue reported that patrols went 600 yards NW of Pt 18 and reported "No enemy." 3d Bn at Pt 16. No mines reported in this area. 3d Bn is assembling for drive to pt. 37. "A" Co. "stopped" at church! No troops, friendly or otherwise in Trun!

At 0955 3d Bn committed. G-3 informed by Lt. Col. Loomis that 80th has one Bn in the line and that we are presumably "doing alright". The current FO of the 359 was received.

At 1012 Lt. Flynn reported that the leading elements of the 1st Bn, 318th Reg't, were at Bordeaux. No resistance. "A" Co., 358 was pinned down by fire from houses across the creek. The platoon that went to the creek crossing also pinned down. "B" Co. was at the creek waiting for fire mission by artillery on resistance in Megillaume. "I" Co., 359, was on their Objective. Their "K" Co. held up by high velocity fire. At 1030 a German 75 was reported in front of 1st Bn, at CR. This gun was instructed (PW stated) not to fire unless a road crossing was attempted. Some of our 1st Bn "attempted" and were fired upon.

At 1040, after Major Nichols had heard the 80th Plans to move north through Argentan, suggested moving our "E" Co. down to the 2d Bn and moving "F" Co. west with its right on the black-top.

At 1050 Major Nichols was brought up to date on the 359th situation and explained the 358th situation to them. "B" Co. is to flank "A" Co.

"Twenty men from "G" Co. captured yesterday by a German Tank." This was reported by a Med. Officer of the 318th.

1100 - 1st Bn troops still stopped near church. "F" Co. rear of CR. "E" Co. still in reserve. 1st Bn notified that ~~there~~ a company of tanks were on their way to help them. The quest on was, could they cross the creek without bogging down?

At 1137 Lt. Col. Clarke returned to the CP. He stated 1st Bn was having a "hot time". "B" Co. had worked into town and was receiving tank fire from the left front. "A" Co. was moving slowly forward. Tanks now arriving at 1st Bn. Lt. Col. Clarke directed that 2d Bn have plenty of bazooka ammunition.

1200 and the 359 position unchanged. Division was informed of our situation. Lt. Col. Clarke informed Division of his plan to push a platoon of tanks through "A" Co's position and smash the MG opposition.

At 1210 Major Lytel, CO 1st Bn, informed the Regiment that he was going to swing bulk of "A" Co. across the creek behind the left platoon. An overlay, captured with a German officer, showed positions of German Tanks and Infantry. 3d Bn had closed its position. Major Wallace informed CP that a patrol from 2d Bn substantiated report from 80th Division that there were not many enemy troops between Megillaume and Le Bourg St. Leonard.

At 1255 Lt. Col. Clarke instructed Major Schultz, 2d Bn CO, to "send F Co. along black top to B Co. and to stand ready to hold the rest of 2d Bn, if necessary."

At 1315 Major Nichols reported our situation to G-3. G-3 stated he would try to get SP guns into the town to help F Co.

1325 - 359th Inf reported that they had intercepted a German radio commo which stated that they (Germans) were going to "throw everything they had" at us at 1530 and then withdraw at 1940. 359th also reported that we could move a platoon of Tanks through the east end of Le Bourg St. Leonard to help F Co.

At 1351 General McLain arrived at the CP. The General conferred with the Regimental Commander, Lt. Col. C. H. Clarke, Jr., and suggested that we broaden our lines to find the enemy's weakest point, or concentrate artillery fire for a break through. Lt. Col. Munson (arty) called his unit for smoke.

At 1415, 1st Bn reported two rocket concentrations between ridge and highway on main route. Lt. Col. Bealke, CO 3d Bn., was ordered to report to the CP. "B" Co. was receiving artillery fire in Megillaume. Chaplain Esser (6ath) picked up a dud which exploded. He was reported to have lost a finger and was evacuated. 36 enemy tanks were now

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HISTORY

358th Infantry

reported to be in Foungry.

1143 - Lt. Col. Bealke arrived at CP. Lt. Col. Munson reported his outfit was firing on armored columns at Eugenie. Air Corps also bombing them. Major Conn (arty) reported armored column going SE. He stated he had four (4) artillery Bns firing on them!

Now came the period of the "Artillery man's dream"! The enemy, on foot and on vehicles, armored vehicles and columns of miscellaneous enemy, were reported "running wild" all over their areas. The artillery cub plane and the artillery forward observers were ordering fire on them. The air was filled with flying, whistling death as the artillery and air corps opened up on these enemy troops. Our ground forces fought like mad to take every advantage of enemy confusion. The incessant rain of shells and bombs completely disorganized the few Germans in the area who were now blown to bits or wounded. Every movement of theirs was "spotted" and fire layed on them. Their vehicles lay wrecked and burning all over the roads and assembly areas.

At 1500 "A" Co. had "gotten thru", but was having a fire fight in the woods. Major Lytel was going to send a tank thru the town. "F" Co. was moving and met a few MG's but were "taking care" of them. G-3 informed the CP of the location of German Rocket installations and ordered fire on them. 2d Bn was now in communication with Regiment by "300" radio.

At 1547 Major Brooks (Div) reported enemy armor still moving at a point which he designated. "F" Co., moving west, ran into opposition 500 yards from the CR. Gen. Devine reported 15 to 20 fires in the forest from our fire. He claimed he was still firing at CR at Chambois where enemy vehicles are escaping.

By 1600 The Engineers reported that they were putting in a bridge below le Bourg St Leonard, which was in "G" Co's area. Enemy tanks attacked Le Bourg St. Leonard. U. S tanks were called for, but the officer in charge of them did not commit them. Gen. McLain stated he was considering committing the 357th Inf. on the right of the 359th. Major Lytel reported "A" Co 350 yards into the woods. "B" Co temporarily held up by MG's and SP weapons. "C" Co. being sent up with "A" Co. "F" Co held up for a while, was now moving. General McLain was now informed by Lt. Col. Clarke of our situation.

At 1630 the 3d Bn was ordered to make a short move to 428453. "B" Co., harassed by tanks, called for artillery fire. This fire fell close to "F" Co., which withdrew to allow the tanks to be knocked out.

At 1646, Major Nichols sent the following message to the 1st Bn: "contact Reg't on left by patrols along the black top. Do not cross black top. Stay south of it." The 3d Army Hqs was now at Barenton.

1700 hours - 3d Bn now under Division control (Div Res). "B" Co astride the road. "A" Co. 500 yards into the woods and moving along. By 1715 Major Lytel was ready to make the "push" with the tanks.

At 1800 the Regimental Commander ordered overlays showing exact locations of all units so that he could plan further actions. Lt. Col. Loomis ordered Tanks across creek to held the 1st Bn.

At 1830 patrols from the 80th and the 90th were ordered to make contact during the night. Instructions were issued on order of General McLain.

At 1910 Major Nichols reported our positions and plans to G-3: " "A" Co on N/S Trail at 333210, with the other two Co's behind them in column, with tanks, and will shove through forest. "F" Co moving W from Le Bourg St. Leonard. 2d Bn will form a bridghead at Meguillaume, and will stay there for the night. "G" Co at CR for the night. "E" Co at N edge of woods. 1st Bn CP moving up to where route crossed black top. Germans (thru civilians) plan an attack tonight SE thru Juvigny to attempt a break thru."

Lt. Clarke arrived at CP at 1945. G-3 gave Canadians permission to bomb our Obj "B". All units were notified. Reg'l CO directed "F" Co join "G" Co and "dig-in" for the night.

10 August 1944 (page 4)

HISTORY

358th Infantry

2000 hours and 1st Bn 200 yards beyond Pt. "C" and held up by MG's and SP weapons. Major Falvey plans shooting propaganda before dark. 2d Bn was ordered to contact 1st Bn, 359th Inf., by foot or motor, every hour, starting at 2200. At 2045 Major Lytel reported his units as halfway between points C & D, and meeting small arms fire. He was having difficulty getting the tanks to move. Bazookas firing on him also. At 2105 he reported that he had given tanks five (5) minutes to start! There is a fire and visibility in the woods is very poor, but "it is imperative to get thru woods before dark." He asked for artillery mission north of his position.

At 2145 - the 358th Inf. orders (from Division) for 19 August:
 "Advance to Obj "A" and clean out woods from the point of 1st Bn's entrance to where they should come out on the other side."

2145 - "A" Co. reported by Major Wallace as coming back from the forest.
 At 2220, 2d Bn was ordered to maintain contact with units on their left and right. They were to patrol road leading to 1st Bn and to be prepared to move to Obj "A" and take over when 1st Bn moves to Obj "B".

1st Bn was ordered to establish an "all around" defense and hold what it had, contacting "G" Co. on Edge of forest by patrol. 1st Bn will resume attack at 0800 progressing to Obj "A". Tanks and other attached units will remain with 1st Bn (because of the forest fire).

2230 Lt. Major Nichols contacted the 80th Division and made plans for OP's and patrols. At 2350 Lt. Clark stated that we are now attached to CC II, Fr. Armd Div, which will attack thru Exemes tomorrow.

2355 and the 1st Bn reported no immediate danger from forest fire. Lt. Aughtry reported re-camouflaged knocked-out enemy tanks discovered.

And thus ended a day of excitement - a day that Germany will never forget!

Authority **NND 735017**
 By **13r** NARA Date **12/9**

19 August 1944

HISTORY

358th Infantry.

Orders for the Day:

"F.O. No. 23

90th Inf Div
 Via NONANTLE PEN
 182200B Aug 44

1. b. V Corps continue the attack to Corps Obj. 53d Div (British) continue the attack to seize TRUN.
2. 90th Div (Reinforced) with 1 CC 2nd Fr. Armd. attached, continues the attack to assigned objectives and denies to the enemy, the roads leading NE and E from CHAMBOIS.

Time of Attack: 190800B 19 Aug 1944.
LD: Present front lines.

3. a. 358th Inf (Less 3rd Bn (attachments, no change) continue the attack to seize that portion of the Div objective within its zone.
- d. 3rd Bn, 358th Inf, with 1 platoon 607 TD attached, attack within their zone, to seize and secure initial objective and in conjunction with the CC of the 2nd Fr. Armd. Div seize the final objective and deny the enemy the use of the road leading NE from CHAMBOIS.
- e. Priority of fires to the 359th Inf through the capture of Hill I29, thereafter to the 3rd Bn, 358th Inf.

MCCLAIN
 Comdg

STILLWELL
 G-3

Regt'l CO and S-3 formulated the 358 orders for the coming day and notified all units concerned. Capt. Caldecott, Ex O 1st Bn, reported 35 men as having gone through clearing station. Units "closed-in" and "buttoned-up" well despite smoke and darkness. Many enemy planes flew over head, and the sound indicated heavy bombers, but no bombs were dropped. Canadians were placed, by Division, as just "beyond TRUN". Small arms fire could be heard from the 80th Div Sector. At 0600, Bns reported "All Quiet". How-
 2nd Bn reported "explosions" in the forest.

By 0800, "C" Co and "B" Co were moving off the road on each side of road, two platoons abreast. No PW's had come in as yet, as a result of last night's propaganda shots. 3rd Bn going straight North to CHAMBOIS. By 0845, 1st Bn reached Pt. "C" with no resistance. Canadians front lines reported as: CHAMBOIS to 4056 to 4059; TRUN 3253, 1st Bn now beyond Pt. "C", visibility 100 feet and no resistance. At 0920, 1st Bn was at Pt. "D". Encountered mines, but no enemy. At 1000, Major Nichols ordered E, F, and G Co's moved up. He then acquainted the 80th Div with the Forest to assault Engrs, and that the 2nd Bn was going to MEGUILLAUME, South of the forest. Told 80th to try and contact 359th patrol which would go to CRENNES. He warned the 80th Div to be careful with their Arty and not lay it on our troops.

At 1010, Lt. Col. Loomis, at 1st Bn, stated the Bn could not cover all approaches as their rear would be wide open. Also that the visibility was now "good". He will now move "F" Co (with TD's) in to hold ground. "E" Co will move on to 2nd Bn where that Bn will hold Objective "A".

So far, no enemy activity. Line of enemy withdrawal estimated to be to ST LAMBERT. Major Lytle will move 1st Bn to Objective B. He himself is there now.

At 1025, Major Nichols notified 2nd Bn to send AT gun up with troops. "F" Co to move to Pt. "D". TD defences to be put in from that point. "Start rest of Bn rolling". G-3 was given our present positions. Objective "A" was now being "mopped-up". Lt. Col. Clarke ordered change in AT defences. He also ordered a reconnaissance for a new Regt'l CP.

At 1045, Lt. Donohue submitted the plans (current) of the 359th Inf.

Authority **NND735017**By **43r** NARA Date **12/9**

19 August 1944

HISTORY

358th Infantry.

At 1047, Lt. Co. Boswell, G-3, stated American La Plane sighted British La Cub plane!

At 1050, Lt. Flynn, reported situation and plans of the 118th Inf Regt, 80th Div., and Major Nichols confirmed verbal orders to Bas in writing: 1055

"CO 2nd Bn - 1st Bn holds Obj "A", moves to Obj. "B". Move "F" Co to vic (333217) with 1 platoon Regt 1 AT Co, 2nd Platoon TD atchd, to secure North edge of woods to Objective "A". Move remainder of 2nd Bn to occupy Objective "A". Contact 359 on right. Nichols S-3.

At 1120, Regt 1 Comdr, ordered that when the 2nd Bn moved forward, it leave an AT mine platoon to guard mine field. Lt. Col. Loomis returned from 1st Bn, conferred with Lt. Col. Clarke and Major Nichols. Praised Major Lytle for his splendid work. Lt. Col. Loomis stated that there are snipers in the woods and that he had been shot at - He also stated he heard "many" German vehicles moving in the woods."

1125, and very good and cheering news! Our Gen McClain informed General Patton of the heavy fighting by the 358th around LE BOURG ST LEONARD. General Patton recommended "a couple of DSC's". Lt. Col. Clarke ordered Capt. Beville to get recommendations in at once.

At 1130, the Regt 1 CP was alerted to move.

At 1140, 1st Bn receiving fire from enemy tanks and Infantry in vic of Pt. 29. 2nd Bn was notified of the above resistance and also informed that some tanks were being sent to them, to be attached to "E" Co.

Major Nichols, at 1155, notified G-3 that the 1st Bn was leaving 1 Co at Obj "A", and going to Objective "B". In the event of 1st Bn's meeting stiff resistance, and the 2nd Bn's having to help them; we will have no reserve block at Pt. 19.

At 1205, the 2nd Bn CP moved forward. The French were reported in CHAMBOIS. At 1226 our Arty reported that "Jerries are being hit hard!" A PW stated his outfit was "going to make a stand" for the woods. Units were notified.

At 1240, Lt. Helle was sent to 2nd Bn for exact information and an order to have a "danger line post" set up to warn our vehicles not to expose themselves to enemy observation. Tank ammunition was now being run through. 1st Bn going to BON MENIL "to wait for Germans - then to blast them!" Regt 1 CP will move to MEGUILLAUME, vic of creek crossing.

1300, and Lt. Flynn, at 80th Div, phoned that the 80th was being counter-attacked by tanks and infantry.

At 1320, "F" Co was at rear of 1st Bn. 2nd Bn was along road in formation F, E, H, and G. Liaison Pilot informed us that 1,000 German vehicles moving from North into BON MENIL. Requested fire. Fire Direction replied: "wait", "we're computing". The pilot replied, "wait?! Let's have more shootin' and less computin'!"

Positions of friendly troops was not compiled to clear the way for fire on the 1,000 vehicle column.

At 1347, Lt. Donohue reported that the 359 was on their objective. Our 1st Bn stated they have 20-25 PW's.

1357, and more good news! The Corps Commander congratulated the 358th Regt!

At 1410, no air corps help available at present. Arty and Air Corps being worked to the limits that day!

At 1427, Regt 1 CP moved.

At 1500, new Regt 1 CP established at (334196) vic of MEGUILLAUME.

At 1515, enemy reported to be forming for counter-attack on our left.

The plans of the 80th Div and 359th Inf given, up to date, to Major Nichols. White flags were reported in CHAMBOIS.

At 1518, "G" Co and "E" Co were tied into positions. 3rd Bn hit by counter-attack. (no details given).

At 1730, Major Lytle reported that he had made a reconnaissance and that there were "quite a bit" of Germans on road leading out of ARGENTAN, trying to escape. He expected trouble.

Major Nichols, at 1745, left for Division to request more TD's (we had been out of communication with Div. for two hours.)

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19 August 1944

HISTORY

358th Inf.

At 1755, Lt. Aughtry reported Germans coming back into woods between Pts. 22 and 39. Our 3rd Bn took 200 PW's, Canadians at ST LAMBERT. 80th having "rough" time. 2nd Bn moved. They are "on this side of where they were."

At 1820, Regt'l CO stated our main problems was our left flank. He order a plat (F Co) from 2nd Bn to supplement AT group and mine field left of the CP (where we have a platoon of Engrs).

Lt. Grubbs, AT CO, substantiated report that Germans are infiltrating into woods at 1840. Capt. Wise, Gn Co CO, was ordered to plan defensive fires on E-W road running left of CP.

1850 and Canadians and 359th have made contact. The gap is definitely closed!

At 1910 Major Nichols informed 1st Bn that he was sending them TD's. AT submitted its dispositions. 1930, Lt. Col. Clarke asked G-3 about help to protect our left. Stated he was bringing up the cooks from the rear tonight to be guards on the left. He feels that there will be "plenty of pressure" tonight, now that the gap is closed.

Also at 1930, G and E Co's, at ST EUGENIE. 2nd Bn made contact with 359 at FOUHEY. Elements to supplement left flank defense tonight are: AT Mine platoon, Engr. Platoon, 80-100 cooks, and 1 platoon of "F" Co.

1945, Lt. Helle reported that "A" Co has "moved up". 2nd Bn, 359 contacted the Polish forces. Lt. Col. Clarke orders a "stiff" CP defense.

At 1950, Lt. Clark checked in from Div with the following information:

The positions of 53rd British Inf - 2nd Armd (Br) - 80th Div.
4th Armd (Canadians at CHAMBOIS) - 30th Bn (in PETIT FORET).

He also reports that the British General (30th Corps Comdr) will fly down to confer with V Corps Comdr 201200 August. No "order" until then. French not North of road running E-W - they did go up but pulled out. No further order from Division tonight except verbal order to "mop up forests in our zone and take town of BON MENIL."

At 2105, information was received that the 317th Inf Regt (80th Div) had crossed the NE-S black top on their objective and that they hold the road. The 318th holds the W-E road out of ARGENTAN. Their 3rd Bn, attacked by tanks during the afternoon, withdrew to within 200 yards of their objective.

At 2000 CP was notified that our 3rd Bn was counter-attacked heavily at 2030. (no details). Lt. Col. Boswell stated Air Corps was to drop "Surrender" pamphlets tonight.

By 2215, 1st and 2nd Bns were tied in. They plan to use tanks tomorrow. There is some Nebelwaffer fire in front of 2nd Bn.

At 2240, G-3 reported that our 3rd Bn had successfully repelled the counter-attack and was now tied in with other units. Capt. Stotler, S-s 1st Bn, stated he was pulling back to tie-in with "G" Co. He stated he was too far advanced. 359 reported taking prisoners at 200 an hour.

Authority NND 735017

By 43r NARA Date 12/9

20 August 1944

HISTORY

358th Infantry

From midnight on there was little activity. Telephone lines and connections were checked, guard posts were inspected and activities were reported regularly to Div. At 0410 Major Lytle claimed that he had been hard hit during the day and doubted if he would be able to take the town of BON MENIL or not. He stated that the enemy had used quadruple mounted guns and 20mm AA guns against him. He had not too many casualties but would not be able to move until 201200 August. There were enemy tanks in BON MENIL. He had taken some prisoners. A Medical Officer (German) told "C" Co he wanted them to cease Arty fire so he could evacuate 1200 wounded. This information was passed on to Division.

At 0425, G-3 informed Regt that the 11th Armd Div would drive through, starting in the morning and would probably be on our front by noon. This information was relayed to Major Lytle.

At 0700, 359 asked our 2nd Bn to fire on five enemy tanks that were trying to slip out. Lt. Col. Stilwell told Lt. Col. Loomis "Be sure to clean out woods today". Germans were again reported "milling" about in the woods. 359 reported 5 tanks - 2 half-tracks heading toward ST EUGENIE. Major Falvey briefed Lt. Hougen, I&R, about foot reconnaissance through woods with the use of 300-radio. By 0755, "C" Co was in BON MENIL. Balance of Bn to be moved in.

At 0800, Arty report a three mile column unidentified at (314252) At 0810, 2nd Bn was informed that the air corps could not handle the column as the air was "too thick". 359 was to handle it. One platoon of Cannons (Cannon Co) with each Bn.

At 0825, 2nd Bn stated they were using all the cannons and TD's they could master and to blast Germans. Enemy was firing 88's into the Bn.

Division was notified that still another column was moving out of ARGENTAN and Major Falvey requested that, if at all possible, the air corps be sent up. Artillery could mark the target. Major Nichols then requested for ammunition for the TD's. Engrs will be held to our regiment for the time being.

At 0850, 80th Div took their objective. Artillery was contacted concerning propaganda leaflets. Enemy, when shelled, was "making for the woods". Good time for propaganda leaflets.

At 0930, a "break through" attack began between our 3rd Bn and the 359. A PW informed Major Falvey that an aid station with four ambulances and 80 men, plus wounded, wanted to surrender. It was suggested that we "hold our artillery" and let them come out to surrender. Lt. Col. Manson at 0950, stated he had counted 37 Germans with white flags. He also stated he saw a column of Germans on bicycles, motorcycles, trucks, tanks, and horse-drawn vehicles. Claims more Germans moving today than yesterday.

Polish in action! "When "K" Co, 359th was attacked this morning, the Polish Army opened up and the Jerries retreated. The situation is now in hand, so reported Lt. Donohue at 1005.

At 1015 the American Army again demonstrated that it was human and fair. Our Arty was to be lifted in areas where Germans wanted to surrender. Major Nichols told the 1st Bn about the 200 German wounded and the aid station that wanted to surrender, probably 8 to 10 vehicles, and cautioned them not to fire when this column came down the road.

Major Schulz, 2nd Bn, reported at 1025 that 5 Tiger tanks were getting in firing position to attack his Bn. As the Arty was on a fire mission, he was going to use TD's on them.

1100 - 80th Div attacking ARGENTAN. Major Lytle and column have reached Objective "C". Lt. Myers, Med O, 315th Med Bn, checked with Major Nichols about shuffling the 200 wounded Germans.

At 1155, there came a disquieting report. 2 Medical jeeps (315th Med) were stopped by a tank. The tank did not fire on the, but made them dismount. The Germans then rode off in the vehicles and left the Americans standing in the road.

Lt. Flynn, reported at 1253 that the 80th had cut the road going NE out of ARGENTAN in two places and that they had 2 Bns in ARGENTAN and were meeting no resistance.

At 1310, plans were formulated to stop all Arty fire for 30 minutes, commencing at 1400, and that at 1400, surrender pamphlets be shot to the Germans.

1315 - and a report that a 3rd Bn aid station was captured - personnel got away, but three jeeps were lost.

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HISTORY

358th Infantry

At 1325, Major Falvey commented that the "Surrender" time was from 1345 to 1430. Major Lytle was notified that he would have to send his PW's out with the news as there were no leaflets available. All units were notified. And did some of them gripe. Such comments as "My God - and such shots! - "We chase 'em all over France, and now - !" Still, everyone in his own heart felt that in the past few days enough blood had been spilled and each and every man knew that the American way of decency was the only way, and they wouldn't have had it any other way!

Plans were now made for receiving the PW's that we knew would be coming in.

This was a unique period in the history of the Regiment. When the firing ceased there was an immense quiet, and this quietness was winning many battles. We would never have to fight!

During the lull, we learned that Capt. Rada and several medical men had been captured at the 35d Bn aid station.

The 315th Med. Co B would help out until replacements could be made.

At 1400, Division notified us that they were sending 10 trucks to handle the obviously huge numbers of PW's we were going to get. Our cooks were to be guards.

Major Wallace, Ex O, 2nd Bn at 1400 stated that he could see many small groups of Germans forming to surrender. He doubted if our time allotted for the surrender was long enough. He requested the cessation of fire be extended. The Arty was notified to hold fire indefinitely.

At 1432, 1st Bn reported PW's coming in all directions in all size groups.

All Units reported PW's surging towards our lines.

At 1448 the 80th Div attacked CRENNES. Major Falvey reported 1st Bn would see a column of tanks coming down the road on their left flank and they were not flying white flags! Our TD's are tracking them.

At 1500 a British plane dropped "surrender leaflets" on our front lines! Div was notified and asked to acquaint the British on our front lines positions.

At 1510, the Artillery started shooting again, but only after the Germans had fired 88's on the artillery observers (also mortars).

At 1515, the 315th Medics reported that one German hospital they went after was now in a nearby field in our area! Our medics proved again today that they had what is commonly called "guts".

At this time the 10 PW trucks arrived from Division.

At 1520 Capt Shipe left for the 80th Div with orders to tie us in in North of them. "G" Co reported 88 and mortar fire. Capt Whittinghill and several I & R men hit by fragments of enemy shells at ST EUGENIE. A1 Corps Engr Captain arrived to remove road blocks.

At 1540, Lt. Flynn reported that the 80th Div had made contact with our 1st Bn and also with the British.

General Weaver, who had arrived at the CP about 30 minutes ago left at 1605.

At this time Col. Boswell reported an enemy armored column concentrating at ST LAMBERT SUR DIVES. He also reported that a German garrison in a hamlet near LE BOURG ST LEONARD (About 250 men) wanted to surrender.

Up to this time we have 400 PW's and plenty more coming in.

At 1615, Major Nichols notified 2nd Bn that their job for tonight was to hold a line from ST EUGENIE to the 1st Bn at BON MENIL, and also arrange a definite contact point with 1st Bn 359. They will set up with 1st Bn 359 on right and 1st Bn 358th on left.

1623 and Arty is firing again. British are bombing a tank concentration 500 yds. North of Point 45. They will not strafe or bomb South of Grid Line 24.

1635 - Major Nichols notified 1st Bn that tonight it will be tied in with 80th Div on left and 2nd Bn 358 on the right. Prisoners still pouring in. Lt. Colonel Clarke ordered Bn's "dig - in". Lt. Col. Loomis arrived from 2nd Bn and stated many men not digging in. At 1735 2nd Bn CP was shelled.. They will check on men not already dug-in.

At 1810 Lt. Col. Stilwell informed CP that during the truce the enemy had moved up several artillery guns and had given us a few barrages. British are to go through us W to E.

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20 August 1944

HISTORY

358th Infantry

At 1835, Artillery was falling on 1st Bn troops in the small unnamed town and it seemed to be coming from the 80th Div Sector. Div notified that we had troops there. At 1910, the cooks were pulled out of line and bivouacked in a nearby field. Some 80th Div men, who were recaptured by the Poles, claimed that there were still a great many tanks (enemy) and equipment still intact. The claimed most of the Germans wanted to surrender but were forced by the "SS Troops" to try and make an escape. They estimated 50 per cent casualties from our artillery.

At 1955, a British Officer arrived at CP and conferred with Lt. Col. Clarke. Merely stated that they were in the adjoining area to us.

At 2128, 1st Bn reports that they are receiving a terrific shelling and 35d Bn at 2215 reported a counter attack.

2225 - and our total PW's thus far total 1800 and still coming in.

"Takes the Cake story for the day" -

As our men were marching PW's in from the field, four Jerries jumped out of the bushes -- and fell in the rear of the long column! Two Majors were taken also in this haul.

At 2245, it was also reported that there was still a small gap between THUN and CHAMBOIS. Major Falvey thinks tomorrow will be another day for PW prisoners - probably larger haul than today.

2315 - Lt. Col. Bealke is reported as having captured a General!

At 2350, Major Falvey asked that a representative of the "Sniper" call to see him tomorrow.

What a day for the 90th Division, and what a day for the 358th! May they come often!

Authority **NND735017**
By **13r** NARA Date **12/9**

21 August 1944

HISTORY

358th Infantry

Situation: Continuation of previous day.

Positions: Same.

These days, with heady victories, sudden counter-attacks, epoch making events and unique situations cannot be merely called a succession of days but rather a period-- an immensely satisfying period for the 358th Infantry--for both its leaders and its men.

At 0010, Major Falvey informed Division as to the total number of prisoners taken thus far, promised a report on the number of vehicles knocked out, stated that 2nd SS Div (which presumably will attack CHAMBOIS in the morning) has been considerably weakened and reduced due to our constant shelling.

At 0815, Lt. Anderson, 2nd Bn S-2, reported something falling from planes (our markings of the G-47). He could not tell if it was man or supplies. They are landing North of our lines, West of Pt. 31. The 'chutes are white. 359th Inf reported, at this time, that 'chutes with German ammo were dropping in their area.

At 0830, Div reported that the 537 AA had "shot down" a German (Heinko 11) plane containing 88 and 75 ammo. 2nd Bn again reported these planes as dropping red and blue 'chutes. The count was thirty-six. Lt. Col. Boswell thought that these 'chutes might be for the Poles. The 2nd Bn sent out a patrol to investigate. They were instructed to shoot at the planes if the 'chutes contained enemy ammo. It was now ascertained from Division that Allied Forces are dropping supplies, (as might also the enemy) and cautioned that, unless positively identified as enemy aircraft, fire be held.

0910 - News Flash! "Fighting and rioting in Paris!"
on both sides of Seine River. Same situation in NANTES.

At 1000, the Cml Mortars were in position at CR (329249). Major Nichols told them to fire thru 1st Bn Arty Observer and check with Arty before firing. At 1020, Lt. Anderson brought a package dropped from a plane. It was definitely German.

By 1030, a German Heinkel 111 had been shot out of the skies, much German ammo had been dropped and the 80th Div had taken 400 PW's thus far this morning.

At 1115, Major Wallace, 2nd Bn Ex O, stated that three Americans were among those taken. At 1145, Major Falvey made plans to take over another German Hospital. Also some more PW's. (Ed Note: At this point, German soldiers are as common a sight around here as the American soldier--in number, more so!)

At this time it was learned that the Germans wanted to surrender to us, rather than to the British or the Polish. (This was very easily understood).

By 1200, a few tanks at a time, were being withdrawn for maintenance with Lt. Col. Clarke's permission. Major Conn (Arty) reported (with a hunter's gleam in his eye) that he was now "well stocked" with ammunition. A "no fire" line was established at 1210. No fire until so ordered. All units were notified. This "no fire time" was to allow a German field hospital clear the lines and surrender. Lt. Col. Clarke directed that the medics not carry weapons of any kind - our own or captured ones. He cited the Geneva Conference. Units were informed of this.

At 1255, Major Falvey sent a German medico out. A Corp. (German) stated that a German Staff wanted to surrender to us. Visibility, due to fog, very poor in the valley - Death Valley, it was know as. A German Colonel "stumbled" into the 2nd Bn CP! (The whole structure of the 7th German Army in our vicinity seems to have become disorganized and seems to have collapsed completely).

At 1326, Capt Meboe, at the CP, stated that the German Medicos have been treating our wounded, and that they are very efficient. Also that their equipment is excellent and their drugs much the same as ours.

At 1330, Major Falvey explained to a German Medical Officer we would not guarantee a "no fire" truce. If a German Tank shows up, it will be fired on by our guns. He also restates that the Germans do not want to surrender to anyone but the Americans! (Ed. Note: All in all, this can be taken as a compliment!) PW's today - 7 Officers, 256 EM.

At 1515 359th reported the capture of a Lt. Col. and a Major. The 11th (British) were passing through CHAMBOIS at 1525. Lt. Aughtry reported 300-400 PW's "coming in". Arrangements were made to get them.

1535 - Lt. B. Clarke, Ln O to Division reports with news that 90th Div to be relieved by British at 221000 August and put into Army Reserve! 80th Div "pinched out" today! 79th Div reported across Seine River.

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21 August 1944

HISTORY

358th Infantry

At 1615 Lt. Col. Munson (Arty) reported on a plane (enemy) that had been shot down. His men waited until it was "directly overhead" and then "cut loose" with everything they had. Plane was scattered over an area of 100 square yards.

1625 - "Fire truce" over! Commence firing! This was music to ears of the boys who operate the big guns. Division and all units were notified and also all PW's were in.

At 1640, Capt. Stotler phones to state that five ambulance were going, again, into "No Man's Land" and could the fire be held? However, two minutes later he reported "All Clear".

At 1710, on the order of Major Nichols, fire was again "held" to let more P W's come in to surrender.

At 1750, the Mayor of MEGUILLIAUME came to CP and enquired about disposition of dead Germans in and about the city.

At 1920, a group of Germans contacted us by radio stating that they wanted to surrender. So far today, IPW reported 587 PW's evacuated. Four Germans observed unning across a road in the 2nd Bn area, started the rumor of a "full scale attack". Major Schulz promptly "squelched" it.

Co "E", at 1935, reported a column, led by tanks in enemy area. Are they Allies? Major Falvey ordered 1st and 2nd Bns to check by patrols. At 1940, a british column passed through our 1st Bn and went into the "pocket". British elements are to the front of both 1st and 2nd Bns. Lt. Clarke brought Allied Army "Big Picture" to the CP. Division warned us of roads not to use, because of British priority.

2025 - Capt Steckla ordered to take Quartering Party to new Regt'l area at 0800 in the morning. 1st Sgt Cloutman, Co "C", went into "pocket", captured 800 PW's, and turned them into the 80th Div because he got lost!

Plans were now made for the night's security. Total PW's for past two days - 2600! Major Falvey is firmly convinced that SS Troops are holding other Germans in position at point of guns.

At 2117, Division informed Regiment that we will go in reserve as a CT, taking Arty and collecting Company with us. Capt. Steckla was informed of a certificate that must be negotiated with British when they relieve us. Capt. Olson, S-4, states he would pick up kitchens in the morning (Ed Note: Hot meals again!

At 2230, Capt Stotler contacted British Officer and will go over front lines him in the morning. At the same time, he will execute the "Certificate".

As of 2240, total PW's for the day - 700 plus!

At 2323, Major Nichols informed 1st Bn that Div Signal wanted a certain radio in a certain vehicle in rear of a certain bombed column; near CR at BON MENIL. 1st Bn will pick it up.

To summarize the action of the closing of the FALAISE-ARGENTAN Gap we find that the 358th Infantry played a very important role. It can be noted that the 3rd Bn while attached to the 359th Infantry was the unit to close the Gap by fire and further closed it in person by contacting the Polish troops. During this episode the 3rd Bn Bazooka Team knocked out four tanks in ten minutes and they captured a Major General. By sheer weight of numbers the enemy over-ran the Bn zone of action and the Bn CP was actively engaged in knocking out tanks and vehicles. Col. Bealke, CO 3rd Bn, received an Oak Leaf Cluster to add to his Silver Star.

2nd Bn had a desperate fight from ALMENECHES to LE BOURG ST LEONARD and captured a two mile square enemy ammo dump in the PETIT FORET DE GOUFFERN. They were instrumental in securing the approaches to the Foret de Gouffern which enabled the 1st Bn to fight their way through the Foret and capture ST EUGENIE. After capturing ST EUGENIE, the 1st Bn then moved to BON MENIL capturing it and another "unnamed" town to the North-West, thereat linking up with the 80th Div on the left. The 1st and 2nd Bns then held a line capturing many vehicles, men, ammo., and knocking out hundreds of tanks and vehicles. The total of tanks and enemy vehicles and artillery and self-propelled guns is still being totaled at this writing

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22 August 1944

HISTORY

358th Infantry

From midnight to 0600 all was routine and "quite quiet" in the Camp 358. The usual checking of Bns and the regular reporting to Division went on throughout the night.

But, at 0045, Lt. Clarke, In O., brought our movement order to a concentration area from Division. At 0830, Division again asked for a report on destroyed enemy vehicles in "The Gap". We were informed that the PW's turned in to the 80th Div by 1st Sgt Cloutman would be credited to the 358th Inf. At 1000 1st Sgt. Cloutman informed Major Falvey that the British had taken at least 1500 PW's.

At 1010, the 1st Bn was relieved by the British and the certificate signed, and was assembling by companies. Lt. Col. Loomis directed them to start marching by the general direction of the Regt'l CP and told Capt. Stotler to report to the CP. Medics informed they would move in "about an hour". Arty stated they could move within 30 minutes. They would recall forward observers and leave liaisons with Bns.

By 1125, "Utopia" was relieved by the British and papers were signed. Division was notified. Cannon Co and Arty can start rolling. Cml Mortars were on the way. At 1240, Major Nichols reported 1st Bn "on the move."

At 1340, the new CP was established, just to the North of CHAILLONE, on a splendid country estate. The Cml Co was informed that they would get their instructions through Corps (XX).

Lt. Col. Munson, at CP, reported Arty had "closed-in" at 1500 (456089).

By 1537, all units, except "G" and "F" Co's and part of 2nd Bn Hqs had "closed in". Co B, 315th Medics, also "in". At 1545, Lt. Col. Clarke gave out the good news that we have "10 in 1" rations for today and "B" Rations for tomorrow! He is also trying to get us clothing. He sent a party out to reconnoiter area for a place for the men to bathe. Capt. Olson reported that we were "promised" shower units, but didn't know when we would get them.

At 1645, Division was notified that 358th had completely "closed-in".

At 1700, Lt. Col. Loomis directed that the rest of the day be spent in "cleaning-up". All units were notified.

At 1740, all men who had participated knocking out tanks with bazookas were ordered to Division to be interviewed by the Press. 1st Sgt. Cloutman was also sent.

Position overlays were now received from all units, including the 357th and 359th Infantry.

At 1900, 3rd Bn "closed in". It had been reported closed-in earlier by error.

Plans were now made, through SS Officer, Lt. Ackel and his Assistant, to furnish the men with a motion picture show and a stage show.

Patrols were set-up to adjacent units and units concerned were notified.

At 2145, Division informed the Reg't that it could be sure of a 36-hour break and that when it moved it would not be on foot.

At 2200 the patrols started checking in.

And so the 358th closed another chapter in World History.

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By 13r NARA Date 12/9

23 August 1944

HISTORY

358th Infantry

358th Regiment went into it's "day of rest".

The hours of darkness were spent in tying in patrols and general security measures. All was not quiet on "our front". There was some difficulty in the contacting of patrols. This was due to poor visibility and very "black darkness."

Reports of "no activity" were given to Division.

At 0720, Major Nichols and Capt. Olson left CP to contact the British. At 0820 Lt. Aughtry phoned from OP and gave reports of the last night patrol. "All well". At 0905 Lt. Clar arrived from Division with routine reports. At 1000 Capt. Hoy, G-3 Section, informed Reg't to "be sure to clean vehicles." Much speculation arose because of that statement - and all of it good!

Bns asked about ordnance inspection. The 0900 patrol was reported at 1025 as "All well."

At 1045, Bns were notified that Red Cross Club-mobiles and movies were to be made available and that details would be forthcoming.

At 1230, arrangements were made to receive the General, the G-3, the G-2, Bn CO's by the Reg't Staff for luncheon.

"Everything OK at check Pt. "B" - Lt. Aughtry, 1410 and at 1520 maps were distributed to the 1st Bn by Lt. Shelton, Ass't S-2. At 1530, Lt. Col. Boswell arrived at CP and stated that the General was concerned about "looting". Also stated that sound truck was now at Division. At 1550 and 1805, Lt. Aughtry again reported "OK".

At 1950, the Reg't learned the situation of elements about us. Also PW reports of the wholesale withdrawal of the Germans. Canadians were reported as having captured 7,000 PW's yesterday!

At 2000 1st Bn patrol again reported "OK".

At 2400 patrol again reported "All's well".

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24 August 1944

HISTORY

358th Infantry

Regularly during the night and day the patrols reported "OK".

At 0835, Lt. Col. Loomis was directed to report to General McClain. There was, as yet, no definite order to move.

At 1050, Lt. Col. Loomis returned from the General's meeting and gave the following report to the staff:

"The General read a paper regarding the "Terms of Surrender". with Germans. He directs that critiques be held within battalions, including NCO's in key positions. This unit must move as soon as the order is received from Division Hq. We must be aggressive. The General wants 1st Echelon maintenance and care and cleaning of equipment carried out. He also suggests practice with bazookas. The General wants award recommendations written up "immediately" while the memory is fresh, and turned in at the earliest possible moment. The General warned that we are on a six (6) hour alert status and not in a "rest area".

Lt. Col. Loomis continued:

"The 19th Corps met stiff resistance yesterday. The enemy line runs from TOUVIERS to ELBEUF and these towns are enemy held. The line runs generally SW to RUGLES which is held by the Allies. Enemy armor was encountered at COUCHES. Vehicle columns on both sides of the Seine River were bombed and strafed. The British have taken TOUVILLE and PONT LEVEQUE."

At 1300, Division still asked information on destroyed enemy vehicles. At 1310, Major Nichols informed Lt. Clark who was to be billeting party. The time of departure for this party was set at 1600, which was cancelled at 1600 by G-3.

At 1600, the Division was alerted to move to the Vicinity of LE MANS - probably on the 25th.

At 2045, Reg't was notified that it must be able to move on a six (6) hour notice, starting at dawn.

At 2200, 2300 and 2400, 1st Bn patrols reported "all is well".

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By 43r NARA Date 12/9

25 August 1944

HISTORY

358th Infantry

Shadows of coming events again started forming for the 358th Infantry. A 'phone call, a hurried conference or an "official" arrival - all these things, coordinated meant that more History was to be made by the 358th.

At 0855, G-3 'phone and ordered the previously cancelled Quartering Party assemble with the same instructions as heretofore, and be "ready to move" at 1030. All units of the Team were notified.

The contemplated move was to MONTMIRAIL, approximately 18 miles East of LE MANS.

At 1000 the patrol reported contact was made at check point "C". At 1015 Lt. Flynn left with the Quartering Party and Lt. Col. Loomis left for the Bn's to coordinate the forthcoming plans for movement.

The 2nd French Armd situation was received at 1100. At 1140, Major Nichols was ordered to Division and he left at 1220. The appointment was for 1230.

At 1250, the Reg't was notified by Division that it would not move before the morning of the 26th August. This information was relayed to all units. The IP will be North of SEES at approximately 0600 and the movement would be to FONTAINBLEAU. The distance, roughly, 170 miles. Movement will be via motor.

At 1500, 1st Bn patrols again reported "OK", and at 1630 Capt Shipe called in all patrols with the exception of 1st Bn's, and the 1st Bn patrol was called in at 1640. Capt. Wise was notified at 1750 that he was to be commander of the 2nd Serial of the movement.

Major Nichols, at 1800, made arrangements for a platoon of the 537 AAA to accompany the Infantry during its move, and that the Platoon Leader report to Capt. Stotler at 2000. Major Nichols was again ordered to report to Division.

Coming events were casting their shadows!

By 1910, Major Nichols, from Division, notified the Reg't that the Trucks for the movement were ready at the QM, and ordered Lt. Chisholm to pick them up.

At 1930, Ordnance informed the CP that its team would arrive in "about an hour" for a small arms inspection. The Team arrived, as stated, and inspected until dark.

At 2040, Major Nichols returned from Division and gave the new order and travel information to all units. "Billeting Parties will report to CP at 0600 in the morning".

Plans and details were now carefully gone over with personnel concerned.

The 358th Inf., incidentally, during its short halt, issued clothing to the men, had the kitchens preparing hot meals, and managed to have a stage show and movies for all units.

By 2200, all plans were completed. The 358th Inf was "read to go" -and confident that "anything could be handled!"

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S E C R E T

CT 358
 25 August 1944

F. O. No. 16
 Map: FRANCE 1/50,000

1. a. There are no indications of German ground forces between SEEs and FONTAINBLEAU. Enemy situation East of FONTAINBLEAU unknown.

The Luftwaffe has been active against Allied troops along the SEINE RIVER and some part of the motor column is likely to be strafed.

b. 90th Div (Mtzd) moves South and East 26-27 Aug 44 to join other elements of XX Corps vic FONTAINBLEAU.

2. CT 358 with 345th FA Bn, Btrys B and D, 537 AAA Bn, 1 platoon CO 315th Mag Bn, Det 90th Sig Co, Det 90th QM Co atchd, moves as Group II of the Division column to concentration area, vic FONTAINBLEAU. For CT and Div IP's, time of march, speeds, distance halts, route, check points, column commanders - see annexes 1 and 2, this order (March tables and strip maps.)

3. x. (1) Serial comdrs will subdivide serials into march units of not to exceed 30 vehicles. A control and trail Officer will be designated for each unit and their vehicles so marked.

(2) The 1st vehicle of each march unit will be the largest vehicle of the unit. It will be control vehicle for the unit. That vehicle will maintain a constant speed of 25 mph, whenever possible. It will not exceed that speed.

(3) Trail O will patrol the march unit column to check for proper distances between vehicles (SM-2) and speed (max 35 mph). At any halt, other than as prescribed in this order, the Trail O will immediately move to the head of his march unit to insure that his unit is not responsible for the halt.

(4) Airplanes will not be fired upon except those actually attacking the column. When attacked, the column will continue to move but gunners will return fire on hostile aircraft.

(5) Regt'l I & R will precede the column and contact reconnaissance elements (90th Rcn Trp, Co D 712th Tank Bn).

4. Issued Separately.

5. CP's CT 358 - Head of Serial II

Others - To be reported.

Control - SCR -284

Reports - SOP

Official time will be issued to serial comdrs at 260530 Aug from CT Hq.

Official:

NICHOLS
 Maj, S-3

CLARKE
 Comdg

Additional Notes to Accompany F. O. 16, CT 358, 25 Aug 44.

Trail O is also Unit Comdr.

In addition to march discipline he is responsible for normal safety precautions and appearance of personnel.

Rate of March - night 12 MPH, Max speed, control vehicle: Night 15 MPH.

Distances between march units - 3 minutes. Between serials - 8 minutes.

Each serial send billeting party to Regt'l CP 0600.

CT Cp at head of Serial I instead of Serial II as stated in order.

Do not double-bank or allow other units to do so.

The first and last vehicle in each serial will display a green flag and each will be marked with chalk: First (or last) vehicle, serial No. _____.

26 August 1944

HISTORY

358th Infantry

The "Day of the Big Move". At 0400, a hot breakfast was served. The weather was foggy, but it promised to be a good day. Personnel and vehicles were lined up. At 0510 Capt Shipe informed the following to report the time their units passed certain prescribed check points and to also, each time, report the miles from the original IP every hour: 1st Bn, Lt. Lyndel; 2nd Bn, Capt., Antoleck; 3rd Bn, Lt. Goodman; CP Group, Capt Wise; and 344th FA, Capt. Thornton.

The Regt'l CP, vic of CHAILLONE, closed at 0630. The movement was on! The fog lifted and the day became clear and ideal for travel.

Lt. Col. Clarke, Regt'l CO, conferred with Bn CO's and Sp Unit CO's.

The all day move continued without any confusion. Periodic halts were made. "K" Rations were eaten "on the road". The hedgerow country was "left behind" and the 358th began entering the beautiful rolling country of inland France. Enthusiastic crowds cheered the convoy all along the route, morale and spirits, which were always good, reached a new high. Evidence of air protection was noticed at regular intervals.

At approximately 1700 a new CP was opened in a woods a mile SW of the fabled city of FONTEAINBLEAU (264887) and the Regt'l Comdr and Major Nichols left for Corps Hqs for orders. When they returned, Lt. Col. Clarke conferred with Bn CO's and Sp Unit CO's and gave them the following order:

1st Bn will relieve elements of the 11th Infantry. Regt'l Hqs will follow 1st Bn, and the 2nd Bn, attached, will follow it.

At 1750, General Weaver and Lt. Col. Boswell arrived at the CP and discussed plans for the 3rd Bn. Col. Randolph, 712th Tank Bn Comdr, arrived and General Weaver gave him the 358th Infantry situation. The 358th will establish bridgeheads along designated areas along the Seine. The 712th Tanks will reconnoiter in front of the 3d Bn and will also use a "jeep patrol." All civilians are to be kept off roads. After the 712th reconnoiters it will take up positions in rear of 3rd Bn.

At 1815, Lt. Col. Loomis reported the "closed in" status of the Reg't to Div. Col. Randolph has only 1 company of light tanks. The balance of his unit will, however, arrive tomorrow.

At this time, Lt. Col. Munson was at the Division Arty ascertaining its set-up. He will make a report to this Hqs when he has the information.

The main thing at the moment is to get the Reg't under cover and set up a defense before dark.

The Tank mission changed. They will remain in position. Our mission for tomorrow is to secure road across the river and hold. 3rd Bn, 1815, was now across the pontoon bridge that was set up by the Engineers. Lt. Pyes, Hqs Co CO and Lt. Lampo, Regt'l Commo, left to find a CP location for Reg't. At 1840, Lt. Col's. Clarke and Loomis went to the pontoon bridge to supervise the crossing.

At 2100, the Regt'l CP was opened at (327932) in a beautiful French Chateau, 1½ miles NW of FONTEAINBLEAU, and at 2150 the CT 3 58 crossed the Seine River at FONTEAINBLEAU! Another milestone!

By 2205, 1st Bn reported its position. We're gradually getting set for the night. Wire was laid to units. At 2230, Lt. Lampo reported 15 500-lb bombs in woods at CP. AT Co reported its positions at 2300. 3rd Bn reported location at 2340.

By now, everyone, though not tired, felt a tenseness --big things were inevitable!

27 August 1944

HISTORY

358th Infantry

"3rd Bn is in position", so reported Lt. Flynn, Ln O., at 0030. Lt. Donohue immediately radioed this information to Div.

All was quiet from that time until 0640 when 3rd Bn reported in position as ordered. At 0730, the CG called and directed the I&R Platoon go on a special reconnaissance to NANGUNS. At 0830, the farthest point reconnoitered was 445010. Lt. Col. Munson was reported as bringing his Bn across the river as soon possible. Capt. Perry was informed he would receive a radio and operator for the coming movement to (467018). Capt Beville, S-3 2nd Bn, ordered "G" Co and an AT platoon too Pt. No. 3, (467018). Lt. Flynn left CP to find location of CP, 7th Armd. Church Service were held in the Regt'l area.

At 0915, the I&R were held in position at Check Point No. 2 and they reported OK. Major Nichols now contacted 3rd Bn and told them Recon would radio them where to meet patrol. 2nd Bn requested that they be notified when I & R reached Point "C".

Lt. Col. Stilwell, 'phoned at 1014 and directed that the 3rd Bn proceed (less 1 Co) from its present position to MONTE DONA MARIA as soon as possible. The remaining company would guard MONTEREAN bridgehead. Div Arty which was sending a Bn with 3rd Bn was given the location of said Bn.

At 1030, Major Nichols obtained 4 trucks from the Engineers. These trucks were to be used by "Co E" when it relieved a company of the 3rd Bn.

General Weaver arrived at the CP at 1042. While at the CP he directed that the Germans not be referred as Jerries but rather as the "Boche". The General says that the definition, as given by the French, for the "Boche" is "running sore". Co B, 607 TD was now attached to the 358th Inf. 915th FA was now in direct support of the 3rd Bn. The reason why 3rd Bn was to occupy DONA MARIA was that, when it was by-passed the previous day, it contained a company of German Infantry, plus some SP guns. The I & R platoon was now at CR at 467017 (NANGUS) and had had no trouble. At 1130, I & R reported that Pt. No. 4 was "OK", and that they were returning to the CP. 2nd Bn was notified.

At 1215, Lt. Col. Bealke requested that a civil affairs officer be sent to him and the request was passed on to Division. Lt. Flynn reported that the 7th Armd Div CP was approximately 3 miles East of MULLEN. Capt Nichols (CO 607 TD) reported to CP at 1255. As soon as he can get across bridge he will send platoon to 3rd Bn. The remaining two will be attached to Regt'

By 1300, 3rd Bn had been notified that a CA officer would be sent soon. At 1325, as the Arty Bn moved in with 3rd Bn, Capt. Wise was ordered to bring his guns back to Reg't. At 1345, the CG directed that 3rd Bn move at once and that he be notified when they were on the move. Lt. Col. Loomis left for the 3rd Bn to get them moving, either by vehicle or by foot!

At 1415, 3rd Bn crossed the IP. Major Nichols told Lt. Col. Bealke that trucks were coming to him for the purpose of shuttling troops to new area. He was also instructed to provide local security for Corps Hqs.

At 1515, the location of the 344th FA was received. A German Recon plane flew over the area. Lt. Drury and Major Stricker arrived at CP at 1530 and received location of our troops. They also stated that the 7th AD met resistance West of PROVINS. At 1645, Capt Hoy came in with Div F.O. Stated that (1) 358th Bn will move into CHAMOIS area - Reg't CP in vic of LA CROIS de BRIE. Units were notified of the impending move - time not known.

At 1700, quartering party was organized under control of Capt. Steckla, Regt'l S-1. Lt. Col. Clarke now planned the movement. 358's own organic vehicles, plus Transportation from TD's, 344th FA, AT Co and Cn Co would be used. Units concerned were briefed on move. Capt. Danovsky, 344th FA, was given Arty instructions. At 1745, I & R Platoon was ready to move. At 1830, CP closed and the move was on.

At 2305, the new CP, at (CHENOISE) was established. By 2310, overlays of the 3rd Bn positions and patrols were received. They had taken 12 PW's. 1st Bn, at 2034, was not all closed-in, but would be soon. Engineers at CP - came with convoy.

28 August 1944

HISTORY

358th Infantry

0033 - "1st Bn 1 mile down the road from Regt'l CP", so stated Capt. Stotler.
At 0011 AT positions were reported.

At 0315, 2nd Bn was released to the Reg't. 3rd Bn still held by Corps, and will be until it's mission is completed. 19 of our kitchen trucks were made ready for the use of the 359th. G-3 was given positions of Regt at 0320.

At 0430, Lt. Clark brought the division F. O. Capt Olson, S-4, states kitchen trucks will be ready at 0800.

G-3 informed there appeared to be no organized enemy in front of the 7th A.D. At 0745, the matter of releasing kitchen trucks was discussed. We needed them to shuttle our own troops. (2nd Bn).

At 0840, Reg't was informed it was no longer a CT. TD's and Engrs may be detached at any time now. 358 in Reserve. 357th and 359th to follow 7th A. D.

At 0910, 2nd Bn was directed to assemble by 0920. Lt. Col. Loomis was on his way to both the 1st and 2nd Bns to expedite matters.

At 0940, an SOP received from Division and passed on to units concerned. At 0945, G-3 instructed that the regiment assemble immediately and move. 1st Bn to put out flank patrol. At 0955, a quartering party was dispatched to select a new CP. Lt. Col. Clarke notified G-3 that the 1st Bn would be "on the road" in 30 minutes. Staff Officers will remain at present CP in contact with Division. I & R platoon to be ahead of column. Major Nichols now left for 1st Bn with the orders on the move. Lt. Taylor left with instructions for 3rd Bn. Lt. Donohue to the 2nd Bn with the orders. March was not "tactical" as we were going into a Reserve position.

Major Lytle was now informed that the 7th A.D. may have by-passed some enemy troops, and if he was to encounter any, he was to give them a chance to surrender. (The 7th AD, incidentally, was to our NE and W.)

By 1030, the left flank of the 7th was across the MARNE RIVER.
1st Bn cleared IP at 1100.

At 1215, Division issued Check Points, dated 280600 Aug 44. These were distributed. 1225 - 3rd Bn released to Regt'l control and it is the Regiment's responsibility to move them. Lt. Col. Clarke directed that the 3rd Bn shuttle to COURTECON (730205). 3rd Bn was notified by Major Nichols.

At 1245, Lt. Clark arrived from division and stated Corps Hq was moving to MONTE MIRAIL. Route "C" was "off limits" to 358th.

Msg at 1306: "Head of column at 700134" signed CO 1st Bn.

At 1330, the 7th AD was at CHATEAU THIERRY.
The command post of the regiment moved to JONCHERY SURVESLE.

NEWS: FRANCE & BELGIUM 1/50,000

1. a. No organized resistance south of the MARNE RIVER. 7th Arm'd Div has encountered scattered delaying forces between the MARNE RIVER and REIMS. Mass withdrawal to the North continues.

b. Elements of the 7th Arm'd Div are reported on the XX Corps Objective NW of REIMS. 359th Inf is at DOMMAN, 357th Inf at CHATEAU THIERRY.

2. 358th Inf moves, by marching, 290730 on Route 6 to its portion of the Corps Objective. Order of march: 2nd Bn (Advance Guard)

3rd Bn
1st Bn

IP and route of march, see route sketch.

3. a. 2nd Bn (Adv Guard) move by foot at 290730 along assigned route. Motor patrols will secure the flanks, coordinated with I&M Platoon to the front.

b. 3rd Bn will follow the 2nd Bn at 300 yards prepared to envelop without further orders any resistance that contains the 2nd Bn.

c. 1st Bn (Regt'l Res) follow the 3rd Bn at 300 yards.

d. AF Co place 1 Plat, 57mm AF in direct support of 2nd Bn coordinated with organic Bn AF weapons - remainder of company in mobile reserves and move under Regt'l Motor Co. AF mine platoon used as guides under I&M Plat leader.

e. Cn Co (mobile) move under Regt'l Motor Co.

f. Sv Co move on order of Regt'l CO.

4. (1) Organic transportation of 2nd Bn released to Bn control. 3rd and 1st Bn's, minimum transportation under Bn control moving within Bn zone of advance; remainder reverts to Regt'l control under Regt'l Motor Co in place.

(2) I&M Plat reconnoiter front of foot columns; place guides (AF mine Plat) along route of advance.

(3) Halts - 1st halt 0615-0830, ten minutes every hour thereafter commencing 20 minutes after the hour. One hour lunch halt at 1230-1330.

4. (Issued separately)

5. SOI - no change.

Regt'l march CP move by bounds in the interval between 2nd and 3rd Bns.

CLARKS
Comdg

Official:

Nichols
NICHOLS
Maj, 5-3

29 August 1944

HISTORY

358th Infantry

Division FO No. 27 ordered the 358th Inf as follows:

" 3. c 358th Inf.

Moves by marching and shuttling at 290730 Aug 44, via route "C" to assembly area TRIGNY - PROUILLY. Be prepared to relieve elements of CT 358 with one (1) reinforced Bn at FISMES."....

Acting upon the above order, the Regiment immediately made plans and notified all units concerned.

Division stated the bridge at CHATEAU THEIRRY was intact.

At 0645, Lt. Hougren (I&R) left to post guides and check the planned routes. At 0705, the CP was instructed to use the bridge on route "B" - the one on Route "C" was out. The Regiments' entire personnel crossed the IP on time, tail crossing 0916. 15 trucks would be used to shuttle troops. The regiment could follow route "C" to CONDE EN BRIE, then switch to route "B". Trucking orders were give each Bn.

The CP again was moving by bounds, and at 1115 was in CONDE EN BRIE. At 1730, it was in JONCHERY sur VESLE.

The 1st Bn took its objective at 1935. At 2210, Lt. Col. Clarke ordered the artillery to be prepared to fire to the NE and N.

At 2230, a terrific explosion was heard. It was an AA ammo vehicle that ran over a mine. Protective artillery fires were worked out by the artillery. All units were now cautioned about mines.

31 August 1944

HISTORY

358th Infantry.

By 0030, all units were in possession of all fact pertaining to the move.

At 0750, the I & R platoon were briefed on route to the new CP and at 0755 the quartering party, under control of Capt. Shipe, left for the new location.

At 0945, the 1st Bn, under Lt. Col. Loomis, was in position in REIMS. At 1035 2nd Bn was "on the way". At 1100, 3rd Bn was checking out.

At 1200, the CP opened at ST MASMAS (413856). 2nd Bn closed in at 1135 (report 1215). I & R reported "all ok".

Locations of units were now being received. An officer's meeting was called for 1400, at the Regt'l CP. At 1920, the Engr platoon was released to its Bn.

The balance of the day was used in checking positions, setting out security and making plans for the future.

30 August 1944

HISTORY

358th Infantry

By 0055, Division was informed that the entire regiment was "closed in". During the night all was quiet throughout the regiment. Patrols were dispatched but no enemy was contacted.

At 0925, Division furnished new check points. Lt. Col. Loomis instructed Engrs to "sweep roads". At 1000, it was ordered that all collaborators be turned over to the FBI.

Major Nichols informed units that the 358th would move at 1300, to a small town, five miles ahead. Division, however, ordered that we "stay put", until the armored vehicles reached VERDUN.

1045 - "358th will move motorized column West of REIMS today."

At 1200, "roads cleared of mines." By 1225, 2nd Bn was moving. At 1430, CP moved to VILLERS FRANQUEAUX. At 1525, the 2nd Bn had closed in.

At 1830, Capt Shipe, reported to Division with overlays of our positions and defensive positions. At 1925, Lt. Col. Clarke was informed that he was to attend a meeting with the CG at 311330 Aug.

2050 "Be prepared to move tomorrow at 0800, probably not mtzd."

At 2115, a warning order was given to all units. Kitchen trucks were dispatched to Bns. General area to be LAVANNES. Move might be by shuttling.

At 2150, it was learned that a recon was to be sent out at 0800 to the front of the regimental advance and the regiment to move out at 1000. At 2210, Capt Shipe notified the Bns how many vehicles they would have and the time they would move.

A Co, will police bridges.

CT 358
30 Aug 44

FO #17

MAPS: FRANCE, BELGUIM 1/100,000

1. a. No organized resistance in REIMS. Some snipers encountered in the city. No enemy reported NW of the city.
b. No change.

2. This Regiment moves to new assembly area, 1st and 3d Bn by marching, 2d Bn (mtzd), at 301300 Aug for route, IP, areas see overlay.

3. a. 3d Bn moves on route A to assigned area, organize local defenses, coordinate security at Bn boundaries.

b. 1st Bn Moves on route A to assegned area, organize local defenses, coordinating security at Bn boundaries.

c. 2d Bn (Mtzd) using kitchen trucks, move via route B, organize local ground and AT security of area, coordinated on boundaries with adjacent units.

d. AT Co moving via route B organize AT defenses on all roads around the perimeter of the area in conjunction with the rifle Bns. Mine platoon weep route A from TRIGNY to assembly area.

e. Cn Co moving v a route B occupy assigned area with guns sited to fire NE - E - SE.

x. (1) Quartering party from all units meet at Regt'l CP, 1200, prepared to sweep roads and fields occupied by troops.

(2) AT mine platoon sweeps route A from TRIGNY to destination; platoon of Co B, 315th Engrs sweeps route B from MUIZON (203823) to destination.

(3) I&R platoon reconnoiter routes A & B and local roads leading out of new area.

4. Issued separately.

5. Regt'l CP opens vicinity VILLERS FRANQUEX 1600.

CLARKE
Cmdg

OFFICIAL

Nichals
Major, S-3

358th Inf
30 Aug 44

F. O. No. 18

maps: FRANCE, BELGIUM 1/100,000

1. a. No enemy reported in Div sector.
b. 90th Div outposts bridge-head North and East of REIMS pending further drives North and East by 3d Army units. 7th Armd and 5th Divs have moved East towards VERDUN.
2. 358th Inf moves 311000 to new positions NE of REIMS, outposts assigned sector with two companies; 1 company secures bridges within REIMS.
3. a. 3d Bn (Mtzd) moves 1000 to assembly areas shown, establishes local security to NE and E, prepared to defend assigned sector.
b. 2nd Bn (mtzd) moves 1030 to assembly areas shown, establishes local security to NE and E, prepared to defend assigned sector.
c. 1st Bn (mtzd) (less 1 co) moves 2nd shuttle using transportation returned from 3d Bn following its move, outposts Regt'l sector with 2 co's as shown on overlay, maintain contact with 359th Inf outpost on the North.
d. AT Co reports to 2nd Bn CP 0945, assists Bn in motorizing, moves to assigned sector, coordinates AT defences of 1st Bn on outpost. AT mine platoon, under Regt'l control, posts guides along route of march, returns to 2nd Bn by 1000 for 2nd Bn use.
e. Gn Co reports to 2nd Bn CP 1000, assists 2nd Bn in motorizing its elements, then occupies assigned sector in direct support of 1st Bn on OP line.
f. Co A, under Regt'l Ex O, assigned 6 2½ ton trucks moves 0800 to REIMS to secure bridges over CANAL DE LA MARNE from ground attack.
- x. (1) Regt'l I&R platoon reconnoiter route of main body, report results by radio, continue reconnaissance along bridge-head line until relieved by Regt'l order.
(2) Quarters parties from all units report to Regt'l CP 0800 prepared to clear mine fields if necessary.
(3) Kitchens will move to company areas following completion of motor move.
(4) All units establish perimeter defence from ground attack.
4. a. Regt'l CP closes present location 1100, opens new location 1200.
b. Bn CP's to be reported on occupation. Present wire communication not to be terminated before 1100.

CLARKE
Comdg

Official:

NICHOLS
Maj S-3

S E C R E T

Hq 90th Inf Div (Reproduced)

CT 358 Inf
27 Aug 1944

Mission Order:

1. 2nd Bn, 358th Inf, is assigned the mission of protection of the SEINE RIVER bridges within the Corps Z of action. Garrison bridge sites as follows:

- a. 1 reinf plat - CHAMPAGNE bridge (348903)
- b. Co less reinf plat - FONTAINBLEAU bridges.
- c. Reinf plat - MISY bridge (555836)
- d. Co less reinf plat - MONTERAU bridge.

2. Remainder of Bn vic of MONTERAU. Bn also charged with the mission of patrolling (by motor-GHC) area N of SEINE between bridges and mopping-up any pockets of resistance which may remain in that area. Utilize civilian intelligence to the maximum.

3. CT 8 less 2nd and 3rd Bns will move to assy area vic CHENOIS (655120) as soon as practicable, motors to be furnished by Div. 3rd Bn will also close that area upon completion of present mission.

t/ MCCLAIN
Comdg.

Official:

STILWELL
G-3

S E C R E T