

1 October 1944 TH 8 Oct.

S E C R E T
HISTORY

358th Infantry

OPD
ET

At 000101 October the 358th Infantry Command Post was located at VIONVILLE. The 1st Battalion was in ST MARIE AUX CHENES. The 2nd Battalion was in woods South of ST MARCEL. The 3rd Bn (-) was in VIONVILLE along with Cannon Company, Anti-Tank Company (-), the Regimental Headquarters Company, Medical Detachment and 344th Field Artillery Battalion Command Post. "L" Company was at GRAVELOTTE. Field Train and Company "B" 315th Medical Battalion was at MARS LA TOUPE

On 3 October the 2nd Battalion moved from ST MARCEL to GORZE closing at 1830. They are to occupy FORT DRIANT after the 5th Div has taken it. To date, the 5th Division has not taken FORT DRIANT. This movement is one of the first steps to 90th Division attack on FORTRESS METZ. The 2nd Battalion, after much discussion, was not attached to 5th Division and can not be moved unless ordered by Corps. After arriving at GORZE "E" Company was further moved to a point in vicinity 753520 and on 6 October, Twentieth Corps moved one platoon of "G" Company to vicinity 762519. "G" Company had relieved "E" Company, completing the relief at 1730, 7 October.

On 4 October 1st Battalion moved from ST MARIE AUX CHENES to ST MARCEL (area vacated by 2nd Battalion on 3 October.), with the orders that they were still in Division Reserve and possibly in Corps Reserve.

The 3rd Battalion plan of rotating its company at GRAVELOTTE was successful and "I" Company was relieved at 2230, 3 October by "K" Company at 2130, 6 October 1944.

At 2400, 8 October, the 358th Infantry Command Post was at VIONVILLE. 1st Battalion at ST MARCEL, 2nd Battalion at GORZE, "G" Company in vicinity of 753520, one platoon of "G" Company in vicinity of 762519. 3rd Battalion in VIONVILLE, "L" Company at GRAVELOTTE. Anti-Tank Company, Headquarters Company, Medical Det, 344 Field Artillery Battalion Command Post at VIONVILLE. Field Train and Company "B" 315th Medical Battalion at MARS LA TOUR.

Captain Stotler was announced as Regimental S-3, replacing Major Nichols who went to the hospital. Lt. Aughtry became the 1st Battalion S-3, taking Captain Stotler's place. Lt. Petche became 1st Battalion S-2, taking Lt. Aughtry's place. Captain Underwood, Captain Blake, Captain Brown, Lt. Parrish, Lt. Corns, Lt. Lipput, Lt. Goltz, Lt. Friend, Lt. Phillipps, Lt. Amory, wounded officers, returned to duty and were assigned as follows: Captain Blake, Commanding Officer "A" Company; Captain Underwood, Hq 2nd Battalion; Captain Brown, Commanding Officer, "C" Company; Lt. Corns, "H" Company; Lt. Amory, "C" Company; Lt. Parrish, Regimental Headquarters; Lt. Goltz, "D" Company; Lt. Phillips, "I" Company; Lt. Liput, "H" Company; Lt. Friend, "E" Company.

The 358th Infantry remained in Division Reserve during the period and had no enemy contact other than the capturing of an occasional prisoner and artillery fire falling in its area. We accomplished intensive training in attack of a fortified area. General cleanup of personnel and equipment and well spent training in related subjects such as map reading, technical instruction on weapons, and disciplinary drill.

The 3rd Battalion built mock-up fortified area in the vicinity of FLAVIGNY. There was very little firing here but firing was assimilated by demolition charges. "I" Company went through the demonstration so well that General Weaver asked if 3rd Battalion would put it on again for General McClain and his party on the 9th of October. "K" Company was selected for this demonstration. Tanks, Artillery, 57 mm, 105 SP Tank Destroyers, are used for this training.

The 1st Battalion built their mock-up about four kilometers West of ST MARCEL and had more firing due to the availability of terrain. More stress is being placed upon supporting fire from infantry weapons. They expect to build up their technique and gradually work in Engineer equipment and larger weapons to their technique.

390-177(358)-0.3

923

1 October 1944 thru 8 October §Cont'd§

358th Infantry

After being on the alert for only a few hours after 30 Sept., we found out that we were to have aided the defence of Twentieth Corps in their sector. We were taken off alert on 1 October at 1045. During this period Colonel Webb of 12th Army Group visited our Command Post and talked to many of our officers about our experiences with Tables of Equipment and Tables of Organization. Many suggestions for their improvement and many of our "gripes" were listed for the Colonel. The Air Corps continued in its attack on METZ and Germany proper and we awaited the reduction of FORT DRIANT.

The following is a partial Officers' Roster of the 358th Inf:

Commanding Officer: Lt. Col. Clarke			
Executive Officer: Lt. Col. Loomis			
S-1	: Capt. Steckla		
S-2	: Major Falvey		
S-3	: Capt. Stotler		
S-4	: Major Olson		
Regimental Surg.	: Capt. Campbell		
Regimental Ln O	: Lt. Clark		
Liaison Officers	: Lt. Donohue		
	Lt. Ridlehuber		
Assistant S-3	: Capt. Shipe		
Assistant S-2	: Lt. Shelton		
Hq Co., CO	Capt. Pyes	1st Bn CO	Major Lytle
Anti-Tank CO	Capt Grubbs	Executive O	Capt. Caldecott
Cannon Co CO	Capt Wise	S-1	Capt. Jackson
Service Co CO	Capt Jacks	S-2	Lt. Petcher
		S-3	Lt. Aughtry
		S-4	Lt. Martin
2nd Bn CO	Lt. Col. Schulz	Bn Surgeon	Capt. McEvoy
Executive O	Major Wallace	A Co, CO	Capt. Blake
S-1	Capt. Antolek	B Co, CO	Capt. Deming
S-2	Lt. Anderson	C Co, CO	Capt. Brown
S-3	Capt. Beville	D Co, CO	Capt. Wright
S-4	Lt. Utterbach		
E Co, CO	Capt. Adler		
F Co, CO	Capt. Roose	3rd Bn CO	Lt. Col. Bealke
G Co, CO	Capt. Lodge	Executive O	Major Chandler
H Co, CO	Capt. Morrison	S-1	Capt. Jaffray
Bn Surgeon	Capt. Meboe	S-2	Lt. Rudes
		S-3	Capt. Burns
		S-4	Lt. Vann
		Bn Surgeons	Capt. Bulger
			Capt Ruda
		I Co, CO	Capt. Guta
		K Co, CO	Capt. McHolland
		L Co, CO	Capt. Bryan
		M Co, CO	Capt. Spivey

Promotions received for the period:

Major Schulz to Lt. Colonel
 Lt. Grubbs to Captain
 Lt. Pyes to Captain
 Lt. Lodge to Captain
 2nd Lt. Flynn to 1st Lt.
 2nd Lt. Helle to 1st Lt.
 2nd Lt. Barnard to 1st Lt.

This period was one of a defensive nature with the 358th Infantry containing the enemy in the METZ area. The Regiment was in the line with the remainder of the Division and our sector was from South of GRAVELOTTE to the vicinity of GORZE. The 359th Infantry on our left and the 5th Division on the right. On the 9th of October battalion commanders and their S-3's were visiting other regimental areas where demonstrations of attack on fortified positions were being held. Our 3rd Battalion held the demonstration for members of Division Headquarters and visiting regimental staff officers. 1st and 3rd Battalions continued to train on tactics of attack and other disciplinary drills. We were visited by Colonel Webb, 12th Army Group Combat Observer, who held several interviews with commanders of our units. Their recommendations as to changes, TO and TE, were received by Colonel Webb. Many experiences were related to Colonel Webb which have later been printed as combat lessons.

On the 10th of October the Chief of Staff informed us that we would be able to send one company to rear areas for what could be called a "rest camp". Reconnaissance and action taken immediately. ST MARIE AUX CHENES was selected as the likely spot and all arrangements were rapidly being completed. Company I was now at GRAVELOTTE and by 2046, Company F had relieved Company G.

At 1300, the 3rd Battalion was alerted for movement. The plan to follow was received by messenger from Division Headquarters at 1325. 3rd Battalion was to move to 357th area and replace a battalion in the line for a short period of a few days. Company I was to be relieved by a company of the 359th Infantry in GRAVELOTTE. The move was successfully completed before darkness, while Company I was relieved during darkness and moved to the new area on the 11th of October.

The 11th of October found orders awaiting for the 1st Battalion to relieve the 3rd Cavalry in their sector. The 2nd Battalion will then be returned to vicinity of VIONVILLE. These moves were all completed on the 12th and our recreational program was to start on the 13th of October. Company F was selected as the 1st company and arrived at ST MARIE AUX CHENES on the 13th of October at noon.

This period was taken up by the training of attack on fortified positions, disciplinary drills, beginning of a recreational program and a general cleaning-up of men and equipment. During this period an ordnance inspection was held and weapons were found to be in fine shape. A few moves were made and we now had, at the close of the period, 3rd Battalion attached to 357th Infantry, 2nd Battalion, less one company at VIONVILLE, 1st Battalion in the defensive position, Service Company and Company B 315th Medical Battalion in MARS LA TOUR, Regimental CP, Cannon Company, Anti Tank Company, Headquarters Company, Military Police Company, and 344th Field Artillery Battalion CP in VIONVILLE. Generally, the Regiment was now in the process of taking over a sector to contain the enemy in the METZ sector. During this time when two battalions of the 358th were on line, relief was effected about every 14 days to enable the men to come back for a rest, bathing and cleaning up of equipment. On October 11, our Regimental Commander Lt. Col. Christian H. Clarke, Jr., was promoted to the rank of full fledged Colonel. A reception was held in Colonel Clarke's honor in VIONVILLE and was attended by many of the unit commanders and Division Staff Officers.

16 October 1944

HISTORY

358th Infantry

At the start of the period we had 1st Battalion on defensive line, 2nd Battalion in VIONVILLE (less one company at rest area ST MARIE AUX CHENES), 3rd Battalion attached to 357th Infantry, Regimental Command Post, Headquarters Company, Cannon Company, AntiTank Company, Military Police Company, 344th Field Artillery Bn CP in VIONVILLE. Service Company and Company B, 315th Medical Battalion in MARS LA TOUR.

Training still being held by the reserve battalion in VIONVILLE and all other units not in the line. During the day, a six-man German patrol attacked a 1st Battalion outpost. Result of the attack was one German wounded enlisted man who died in the Battalion Aid Station and the remaining five Germans withdrawing. As always, policies of procedure were being established and it was announced that 1/20,000 maps would be used by all units including Division. Orders were received today that 2nd Battalion would make reconnaissance on 17th so as to relieve 3rd Battalion, 2nd Infantry prior to 182400 Oct 1944.

17 October 1944

Today was a little bit busier than usual in that 2nd Battalion started incorporating plans to relieve 2nd Inf (3rd Battalion) and 3rd Battalion 358th Infantry was being relieved in their sector by 357th Infantry elements and would return to VIONVILLE as Regimental Reserve. Several civilians were held for questioning today and a platoon of our Military Police Company was sent to GORZE to aid 1st Battalion in their civilian problems. With the exception of some heavy mortar barrages in the 1st Battalion sector, everything was quiet. Company E replaced Company G at the rest camp.

18 October 1944

Company C replaced Company A at 1200 today. It was learned today that General McClain, 90th Division Commanding General, had been replaced by General J. A. Van Fleet. This change in command of the 90th Division was effective on the 16th of October. It is reported that General McClain left to command the XIX Corps. The entire regiment was alerted due to a fire fight in the 359th Infantry sector in GRAVELOTTE. After 2215, everything had quieted down in GRAVELOTTE and the situation was reported to be well in hand. By now I and M Companies of the 3rd Battalion had closed in MARS LA TOUR with the remainder of the 3rd Battalion in VIONVILLE. 2nd Battalion was busy relieving 5th Division elements.

19 October 1944

The enemy slipped today and we found out their password for the day was "Tasper-Und-Tren". Company L replaced Company E at the rest area. In order to allow Company E to continue their 48-hour rest, Company K had been attached to 2nd Battalion. At 1200, Company K had been relieved by Company E and was in VIONVILLE. We suffered a few casualties from 88mm fire in our 1st Battalion sector of the front lines. Company L replaced Company E at the rest area.

20 October 1944

Today it was learned that the 95th Division would relieve the 5th Division on the 21st of the month. Today was very quiet with very little activity throughout the Regiment. The weather was clear and the sun shone for the first time in many days. Several large formations of Allied planes were heard during the night. Enemy fire was received in our 2nd Battalion area and also in the 1st Battalion sector but no casualties were inflicted.

21 October 1944

HISTORY

358th Infantry

Company F replaced Company E at the rest area. ETO Intelligence officers visited the Command Post of the Regiment and went into conferences with our S-3, Major William J. Falvey. They discussed combat intelligence. General Van Fleet expressed the thought that we, as a division were not aggressive enough in our defensive situation in this sector. He orders patrols, both reconnaissance and combat. The "Jerries" are becoming braver and more active with his patrolling and constant shooting up of flares. Their pyrotechnics include every color in the book. Otherwise, all very quiet during the night and day.

22 October 1944

During the early morning hours, more enemy fire was noted than ever before since we arrived in this sector of the 3rd Army front. Artillery of all caliber fell in the 1st and 2nd Battalion sectors. No casualties were reported since our front line troops are well dug in. Training for the reserve battalion continued in MARS LA TOUR and VIONVILLE.

23 October 1944

During the early morning hours more, the usual amount of varied colored flares were shot up by the Germans from their own fronts and also the strong forts in the METZ area. Again during the day, considerable activity was noted from our advanced outposts and listening posts. It is expected that the 2nd Battalion will occupy NOVENANT. A 4.2 Cml Mortar Company has joined the regiment to augment our defensive fires. The Engineers are placing wire entanglements and booby traps along our front aided by our A&P Platoons of the front line battalions. Company F, in ANCY SUR MOSELLE reported considerable enemy movement during the late evening.

24 October 1944

The I&R Platoon, now commanded by Lt. Windrow Payne, has been doing some fine work at their outpost. They have taken a lot of shelling but with their patrols at night and constant daylight vigilance, they have produced some well founded enemy information. The enemy continues to use pyrotechnics during the night. Several German PW's escaped from a rear area in a British truck and were captured by our Company C just as the men were nearing German lines. Training continues and the rest camp has added ice cream to boost the morale of the boys who are sent back for rehabilitation.

25 October 1944

Enemy air and ground activities during the night consisted of flares and an occasional uneven drone of a German plane. One PW captured by 2nd Battalion during the night. Company B is replacing Company K at the rest camp. Trucks were used for the first time to relieve a company at the rest camp. When the rest camp was inaugurated, it was understood that we were not to use any transportation to convey troops to and from the rest area. Trucks were used today in order that 3rd Battalion could replace 1st Battalion on the line before dark. By 1425, 3rd Battalion Command Post had closed in and expected complete relief by 1600. Major Falvey and Capt Foster of the 344th Field Artillery Battalion, have at last worked out a deal to fire propaganda leaflets to Germans tonight.

26 October 1944

Ordnance inspection of all weapons of the 1st Battalion less 1 Company which is at the rest area, will be held today. The report on weapons was "Excellent".

Military Police Company searched NOVEANT in a shake-down inspection for American G.I. equipment. Capt Beville reported that 11 duds fell in their area.

27 October 1944

Company C replaced Company B at the rest area. MP Company had another shakedown inspection today. This time it was the little village of MARS LA TOUR, West of VIONVILLE. CIC members reported that they got everything from G.I. socks to American steel helmets. Observation posts report that the Germans are using forts of the METZ area. Enemy was seen trying to listen to a broadcast put on by the 379th Regiment of the 95th Division. Everyone hopes it will bring the Jerries over to our side of the line--with their hands up. The enemy continues to feel out our lines with patrolling and intermitten burst of rifle and machine pistol fire in an effort to draw fire from our front line men.

28 October 1944

Enemy activity during the early morning hours was somewhat lessened by our own artillery fire and constant spotting of enemy activity by our Outposts. Company A fire bazookas and other weapons today. The Regimental Field Traing located at MARS LA TOUR received orders to move by 29 Oct (1200) so as to allow the 10th Armd Division elements a place to billet until they could effect a relief of units in the area. Capt Louis Jacks, Service Company Commanding Officer, went out on reconnaissance of various places to billet his Service Train. Decided on the woods just south of ST MARCEL. This area had been formerly occupied by both our 1st and 2nd Battalions.

29 October 1944

Company A relieved Company C at rest area and the Field Train moved to woods just south of ST MARCEL. Enemy activity activities continue and we have received orders that we would be relieved soon by the 10th Armord Division in this sector. Time of relief not set as yet. In all, the Division received orders from Corps that the entire division would be relieved on October 31 and would move to vicinity of FILLIERES for a training program of attack on fortified areas and firing of weapons.

30 October 1944

10th Armored Division officers were at the Regimental Command Post and were orientated by Colonel Clarke, our Regimental Commander, Capt Stotler, S-3, and Major Falvey, S-2 on the entire tactical situation of this sector. The officers then visited the two battalions on the line (2nd and 3rd) for detailed plans to effect relief of the 358th Infantry on the 31st of October. All through the day plans were being completed for the relief. Enemy activity remained at the same degree of intensity during the day and night.

31 October 1944

Company A left rest area at 1200 thus closing our "Rest Camp" at ST MARIE AUX CHENES. While it lasted, the three rifle battalions had been completely processed and all men had spent 48 hours of rest and relaxation from front line rigors. Relief of the regiment will be in effect today and movement of the entire regiment will be on November 1st to FILLIERES for its training area.

The entire month was spent on the defensive line containing the enemy around METZ, strong and powerful swinging door to the Siegfried Line. Enemy activity was normal in this situation. A rest area was established for the men and the 3 battalions were allowed their share of time there. Several reliefs were held

during the month due to the wish of the Commanding General to keep the men of the front lines in the muddy fox holes for too long a time. Other movements were held at a minimum other than movements of a relief nature. The one highlight of the month was the promotion of our Regimental Commander to the rank of full Colonel.