

NARRATIVE OF EVENTS

1 - 30 NOVEMBER 44

L-30J

FIGHTING IN THE VOSGES MOUNTAINS

See Maps XXXVI-18 GERARDMER; XXXVI-17 ST DIE (copies attached).

1 Nov The month began with the 3d Battalion digging in on the high wooded ground it had won the previous day, Hills 698 and 701 (3556) overlooking La Houssiere. The 100th Battalion was echeloned to the right rear, protecting the right flank and covering the draws coming up Southwest from the Biffontaine-La Houssiere valley. Co I held its roadblock on the trail at 349573. The 2d Battalion, temporarily attached to the 141st Infantry, was deployed on and around Hill 617 (328608).

The Germans continued to shell the 3d Battalion, putting exceptionally heavy concentrations on the road block and on the road running along the top of the ridge to the 3d Bn positions.

Because of the tactical value of the hills and the reduced strength of the 3d Bn, plans were made to meet an expected counterattack. One company of the 3d Bn, 141st Infantry was to reinforce the 3d Bn in case of an enemy assault, and the 100th Bn was held in readiness to move up abreast. Patrols from the 3d Bn engaged in firefights in the thick pine woods around the hill and reported an estimated 200 enemy in front of the battalion. A liaison plane kept observation on the area. Shell reports were sent back to Division and both Division and Corps artillery fired counterbattery missions.

Cos F and G moved Southeast from Hill 617 and reached Hill 609, securing it against sniper and small arms resistance.

Antitank Co 1st platoon acted as litterbearers; 3d platoon guarded the supply route coming down the valley from Maillefaing, and the 4th platoon was attached to the 100th Bn as riflemen to cover the battalion rear.

The regimental CP moved to Grebefosse (315607). 13 prisoners were taken, their units being identified as 1, 2, 3 Cos 305th Grenadier Regiment, 338th Division; 2 Co 306th Grenadier Regiment, 338th Division; 4 Co 602d Mobile Battalion.

The 442d Regimental Combat Team was transferred from control of NATOUSA to ETOUSA per secret letter Headquarters Seventh Army, AG 370.5 Misc, 29 Oct 44, Subj: Transfer of NATOUSA Personnel that are Physically in France as of 0001A hours 1 Nov 44.

2 Nov The regiment remained in defensive position, under continuing artillery fire. The expected counterattack did not develop, and patrols were sent out South and East to the edge of the hill mass overlooking La Houssiere. The patrols reached the railroad track curving around the base of the hill and engaged in several skirmishes with German outposts. Contact was maintained between the 100th and 3d Bns.

The Co I roadblock was relieved when the 3d Bn 141st Infantry passed through the intersection and advanced up the trail. The 3d Bn continued to patrol the trail from 349573 to 358582 as a protection to the flank of the 3d Bn 141st Inf.

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Co G moved South approximately 2 miles, to a point behind the 100th Battalion. Co F, moving in the same direction, came under heavy fire from SP guns, which killed 3 and wounded 15 men in the company. Of three German prisoners who had been captured by Co F, two were killed and one wounded by their own SP's.

A German mortar shell made a hit on the 100th Bn CP, killing two of our men. Two German prisoners who were being interrogated at the CP were killed and two more wounded by the same shell.

The weather continued cold and a steady rain impeded operations and filled the slit trenches.

- 3 Nov The regiment remained in its defensive position, on the height overlooking La Houssiere. The enemy continued to shell the area heavily and harrassed our positions with sniper fire.

Patrols from the 3d Bn engaged in firefights in the forest at several points throughout the day. At 363565 they encountered 2 machine guns and 20 riflemen; at 353562, a machine gun nest. A patrol from the 100th met an enemy combat group consisting of automatic weapons and riflemen at 344563. At 339602 a squad from the 2d Bn scattered a 10-man enemy party.

A patrol from Co I, sent to contact a patrol from Co C at the Forrester's Shack (Maison Forrestiere 354563) met a strong enemy group on the way and engaged in a particularly stiff fight. The two friendly patrols made contact and jointly forced the enemy to withdraw. One Co I man was killed, 3 wounded.

The enemy maintained a continual probing of the 3d Bn defenses throughout the day. At 1700, under cover of a mortar barrage, they attempted to penetrate in the I Co sector, but were repulsed. Because of their thin line, the 3d Bn was reinforced by a platoon from Co E, which acted as mobile reserve.

Both the 100th Bn and the 3d Bn maintained road blocks on the road running E and W through La Houssiere, and kept an outpost line near the base of the hill mass. The regimental OP kept observation on the Corcieux valley, and our artillery covered the valley with protective fire.

The 2d Bn reverted to the control of the regiment. Co E moved South from Hill 621 (337597) to Hill 673 (345573) at 1630, and Co I, 141st Inf, took over the garrisoning of Hill 621.

The weather continued cold and wet. Two hot meals were brought up to the front lines during the day.

- 4 Nov Patrol activity continued on the 4th, as the battalions remained in position. Enemy barrages fell sporadically in the area.

G Co was attached to the 3d Bn and engaged in a firefight in the forest at 349568, meeting an estimated 40 enemy riflemen. Darkness put an end to the fighting, with the troops remaining in position. G Co plus the 2d and 3d platoons of Antitank Co, maintained roadblocks on the trails leading into the 3d Bn positions, at 344562, 350578 and 352575.

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The three weeks of continuous fighting and freezing weather had taken a heavy toll of the front line companies. Fighting strength as of 4 November 44 was:

Hq Co 100th Bn - 104	Hq Co 2d Bn - 73	Hq Co 3d Bn - 89
Co A 66	Co E 85	Co I 42
Co B 43	Co F 86	Co K 76
Co C 66	Co G 105	Co L 97
Co D 57	Co H 115	Co M 107

23 new officers joined the regiment and were assigned to the line companies.

Three former enlisted men were awarded combat commissions as 2d Lieutenants, per SO 223, Hq 7th Army, 6 Nov 44, as follows:

<u>NAME</u>	<u>ASN</u>	<u>ORGN</u>	<u>EFF DATE</u>	<u>BRANCH</u>
2d Lt ETSUO KATANO	O-1998640	442d Inf	4 Nov	MAC
2d Lt DANIEL K. INOUE	O-1998638	442d Inf	5 Nov	Inf
2d Lt KEICHIRO YAMATO	O-1998650	442d Inf	5 Nov	Inf

Winter clothing was issued to all troops, consisting of the new-type field jacket, wool sweater, shoe pacs and heavy shoes.

5 Nov The regiment attacked at 0800 to clear the zone of enemy and secure positions along the railroad track running around the base of the hill. As the attack began, the companies were formed in a semicircle on the hill, curving from Northeast to Southwest. Co F was at the northern end of the arc, with the 3d Bn rifle companies L, K and I forming a bow facing East. Co G, attached to the 3d Bn, faced South and the 100th Battalion remained in position looking Southwest from the high ground.

Cos G and I pushed off, meeting strong resistance. German riflemen and machine gun nests fought stubbornly from the cover of the thick wood, and progress was slow. Going downhill, G Co ran into a minefield. I Co came under severe mortar fire which caused ten casualties and reduced the company's fighting strength to 34 men. I Co made 300 yards and dug in. K and L Cos likewise were engaged in heavy fighting against machine guns and enemy bazooka teams. Co F attacked Northeast and cleared the nose of Hill 645 (354570), had 1 man KIA, 4 WIA. E Co remained in reserve on top of Hill 673.

One platoon of Co C followed up G Co's advance. Co A sent reconnaissance patrols along the Biffontaine-La Houssiere road; one patrol went to the crossroad at 332567 and another to the group of houses at 337564. Neither patrol made enemy contact. Co B had patrol contact with the 143d Infantry on the regimental right flank.

Enemy heavy mortars were very active during the day, and the Co M CP suffered a direct hit. The regimental OP at 340568 spotted mortar flashes across the valley, and brought observed artillery fire on them at 1840.

Air support strafed the Rouges Eaux valley Northeast of the regimental sector at 1630 hours.

Because of the reduced strength of the regiment, the 232d Engineer (C) Co, of the 442d Regimental Combat Team, was alerted to act as an Infantry force on the following day.

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During the night of 5th-6th November, a combat-reconnaissance patrol from Co A reconnoitered the Biffontaine-La Houssiere road, and the flat land Northwest of La Houssiere. The patrol, consisting of 1 Off and 6 men, located a German mortar position at 342563, but as the enemy was too numerous for the patrol to engage, they returned and brought artillery fire on the target. The 3d Battalion patrols ran into the enemy facing the battalion and withdrew.

Co E left its position in regimental reserve on Hill 673 at daybreak. With the 2d platoon of Co F attached, the company moved around the left rear of the 3d Bn, passed through L Co on the left flank of the 3d Bn, and attacked on Hill 688 (361565). They were immediately engaged by the enemy, who threw a heavy artillery and mortar concentration on the company as it endeavored to move down the slope of the hill. The company engaged the enemy Infantry, who fought fanatically, employing 6 machine guns, rifle grenades and bazookas against our attack. Co E advanced 150 yards during the day. 1 Officer and 1 EM were killed and 14 wounded in the bitter fighting.

The 3d Bn attack was held up until E Co passed through and beyond L Co. The battalion then attacked at 1400, with G on the right, L center and K Co on the left. I Co was in reserve, and formed a base of fire for the attack. The battalion pushed South, but was met with a heavy shelling and unbreaking ground resistance which limited gains to 100 yards. The enemy counterattacked late in the afternoon between the 2d and 3d Battalions, but were repulsed and driven back into their positions.

Co F, less the 2d platoon attached to Co E, remained in position at 354570.

Throughout the day the enemy continued to pound the 2d and 3d Bns with a terrific mortar and artillery concentration.

The 1st and 2d platoon of Antitank Co were attached to the 2d Bn as riflemen to protect the left flank of the battalion and hold a roadblock on the trail coming along the ridge from the North. Both platoons were under mortar fire during the day, which killed one and wounded one EM. The 4th platoon of Antitank Co carried wounded for the 3d Bn.

The 232d Engineer (C) Co relieved the 100th Battalion on the right of the regimental sector. The 100th reverted to regimental reserve, leaving a platoon of C Co with G Co to hold the ground after the G Co attack.

Because of the thick woods which was the scene of the fighting, the attached 4.2 chemical mortars were unable to obtain firing space. 5 EM from Hq Co were sent out to the 4.2 unit, to assist in clearing a place in the woods so that the mortars could fire.

The cold rain fell steadily and turned the supply trail into a quagmire. At one spot between the 2d and 3d Battalions a large mudhole was formed. In order to evacuate the wounded, the medics stationed a jeep on both sides of the bog, and trans-shipped the casualties.

The forward CP moved up during the day to a reinforced cave in the forest, at grid coordinate 344574.

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7 Nov On the night of 6-7 Nov, strong German patrols attempted to infiltrate to the right of L Co, but were repulsed. Our own patrols were likewise active. A 4-man reconnaissance patrol from F Co went up the forest trail, starting at 353576, for a distance of 300 yards, at which point the enemy threw grenades at them, and the patrol returned. Another patrol from Co B again reconnoitered the flats NW of La Houssiere and the stream paralleling the Biffontaine-La Houssiere road. A combat patrol from Co A, consisting of 1 Officer and 28 men went to the road junction at 342562 North of La Houssiere, searched all the houses there, finding old and unmanned German mortar positions. The 3d Bn patrols again ran into German outposts, drew automatic fire, and returned.

The attack was resumed at 0930, with the position of the companies remaining the same. Co G, with the platoon of C Co attached, advanced 800 yards against machine guns and mortars, and cleared the enemy off the slope. The company took three prisoners and moved for the night into houses near the Maison Forestiere. I Co moved down the hill, keeping contact between G Co and L Co.

The enemy continued his unrelenting barrage of the 2d and 3d Bns, with artillery, 88mm and heavy mortars.

While the 3d Battalion was clearing the Southern slope of the hill mass, Co F (less 2d platoon attached to Co E) and the 1st and 2d platoons of AT Co, attacked Northeast to make contact with the 2d Bn, 142d Inf. The two companies cleared the Northern slope of the hill mass and reached the Rouges Eaux river valley, and accomplished their contact mission. They encountered heavy enemy artillery, mortar and machine gun fire, and took six prisoners during the day, from the 7th Co, 2d Bn, 308th Grenadier Regiment. Co F occupied houses at 360580 for the night.

B Co was relieved by elements of the 142d Infantry, and rode back to Bruyeres in trucks during the afternoon.

The rain continued to fall steadily, and late in the evening changed to snow. The cold, wet weather was a great hardship on the wounded especially, and likewise was responsible for numerous cases of trenchfoot among the front line troops.

During the night of 7th Nov, a 6-man patrol from the 232d Engineers reconnoitered the road at the base of the hill, between the Engineer and G Co sector. Contact was made with G Co at 0130, but on the way back the patrol ran into a minefield at 342563 around the bridge on both sides of the stream. Five men were wounded by the Schu mines. Another 6-man reconnaissance patrol made a circuit of the flatland in front of the company sector and returned with a negative report. A patrol from E Co ran into machine gun fire and trip wires and returned.

8 Nov On the morning of the 8th, a platoon of Co H relieved the 232d Engineer (C) Co from their duty as Infantry. The Engineers were badly needed for minesweeping and road maintenance to keep open the supply routes.

The 3d Battalion, with Co G still attached, continued to work down the slope of the hill mass overlooking La Houssiere, clearing out the last remnants of enemy opposition. A machine gun opened up in front of K Co, and patrols from L and K were sent to silence it. G Co on the right of the battalion zone cleared out two additional houses at the base of the hill, 1 kilometre North of La Houssiere. Two prisoners were taken, from the 5th and 7th Cos, 305th Regt. The 326th Regiment

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was also identified in the regimental sector.

The heavy fighting that the regiment had been through was reflected by the fighting strength of the line companies. I Co had 4 men left on the line; L Co had 17 riflemen. K Co was without officers, and was under the command of a Sergeant.

The regimental OP located at 340568 maintained observation on enemy activities and sent in shell reports on the enemy artillery, which were coordinated with the reports of other OP's, and effective counterbattery work was obtained.

During the day, relief of the 442d Infantry by the 142d Infantry was begun. The 100th Battalion returned to Bruyeres during the morning. The 2d Bn (less Co G, attached to the 3d Bn, and 1 platoon of Co H) displaced rearward to Pays in the afternoon. A short and much needed rest was in prospect, and arrangements were made for hot showers and a change of clothing.

The 100th Battalion was detached from the 442d Infantry and from the 36th Division; its movement to the Army Rest Center at Bains les Bains and attachment to the 45th Infantry Division was directed by secret letter Headquarters VI Corps, 8 November 44.

9 Nov The relief continued on the morning of the 9th, when the 1st Bn, 142d Infantry took over the sector held by the 3d Battalion. The 3d Battalion moved back to Lepanges. Antitank Co, the remaining platoon of Co H, and Cannon Co were also relieved. Cannon Co left its guns in place, with a guard, inasmuch as the regiment was expecting orders to return to the line after two days of rest.

The 100th Battalion, detached from the regiment on the preceding day, left the BRUYERES area on the morning of the 10th. Its history for the period of its detachment will be appended as a separate inclosure.

The period from 9th to 12th November was spent in rest. The troops enjoyed a hot bath and a change of clothing, and were billeted in buildings. Memorial services were held for those who had died in battle, and the companies undertook to quickly refurnish and reorganize themselves. Losses for the battles just finished in the VOSGES MOUNTAINS sector were 140 killed and 1800 other casualties, including wounded, non-battle casualties and trenchfoot cases.

The 2d Bn was billeted in PAYS, 3d Bn in LEPANGES, Regimental CP, Hq Co and Medical Detachment at FIMENIL. Service and Antitank Co remained at the French Barracks in BRUYERES. All companies were paid for October and enjoyed Special Service motion pictures and a ration of beer. A delegate from the American Red Cross was permanently attached to the Combat Team for soldier-welfare.

During the rest period special attention was given to instruction in the prevention of trenchfoot.

On November 12th a regimental formation was held, and Major General DAHLQUIST, Commanding General of the 36th Infantry Division, presented two Silver Stars, 10 Bronze Stars and 16 Division Citations to members of the 442d Infantry. The citations of four Distinguished Service Crosses, four Silver Stars and one Bronze Star, posthumously awarded to members of the Combat Team, were also read:

Posthumously awarded

Distinguished Service Cross	- Pfc Kiyoshi K. Muranaga, Sgt Togo Sugiyama, Pfc William K. Nakamura, S Sgt Kazuo Otani
Silver Star	- S Sgt Seikichi Caneko, T Sgt Atsushi Sakamoto, Pvt Akio Nishikawa, Cpl Yoshiharu Aoyama
Bronze Star	- Pvt Akio Nishikawa

Individuals Decorated

Silver Star

- S Sgt Shinyei Matayoshi, Pfc Jack S. Sakamoto.

Bronze Star

- Pvt George M. Hata, S Sgt Albert K. Nakama, Pfc John M. Naganuma, Pvt Sueo Takahashi, Pvt Arthur A. Kaisaki, Pvt Masaharu Okamura, S Sgt Henry C. Oyasato, Pvt Sadao Sakamoto, S Sgt William Y. Thompson, 2d Lt Edward E. Androvette.

34th Division Citations

- Pfc Frank T. Okita, Tec 4 William I Imamoto, Tec 4 Robert M. Akita, Pfc Kiyomi Yamamoto, Pfc Richard K. Kinoshita, S Sgt Roy K. Fukushima, Pfc Paul M. Shimada, Pfc Takeshi Onuma, S Sgt Akira A. Nishimoto, Sgt Iwao Kojiro, Sgt Seikatsu H. Kikuyama, Pfc Robt Y. Tanna, Pfc Taketo Kawabata, Pfc Kenneth Arashiro, Pfc David K. Shidaki, Pfc Takeshi Takayama.

Three former enlisted men were awarded combat appointments as 2d Lieutenants, per par 7, 50 #229, Headquarters Seventh Army, 12 Nov 44:

2d Lt Susumu Yamada, O-1998659	12 Nov 44	Inf
2d Lt Henry C. Oyasato, O-1998657	12 Nov 44	Inf
2d Lt Minoru Kurata, O-1998656	12 Nov 44	Inf

13 Nov On the morning of the 13th, the 2d Battalion moved back into the line. The trucks left Fays at 1000 and moved by infiltration to the forward assembly area, where the troops dismounted and relieved the 2d Battalion, 142d Infantry in defensive positions.

The 3d Battalion followed in the afternoon, and took up positions behind the 2d Bn in regimental reserve.

The mission of the regiment was to maintain defensive positions in the forest it had cleared in the previous fighting, the Foret Dominiale Du Champ, overlooking the Taintrux Valley, which leads into St Die. The regimental sector extended from Chevry to La Houssiere, on the left of the 36th Division sector, with the 103d Infantry Division on the left and the 142d Infantry, 36th Division on the right.

During the afternoon the enemy in front of the F Co sector threw mortars and 20mm fire on the company. Our own 4.2 mortars answered. All companies of the 2d Battalion sent out security patrols. Defensive positions were set up in the snow covered forest, and because of the freezing weather, work was begun on the construction of platoon huts. Dry straw was brought up from the rear for the purpose.

During the night of the 13th-14th, 5 rounds of heavy mortars fell in the Co M area, hitting the building in which the company CP was located. Two men were killed and four wounded by the barrage.

14 Nov The 2d Battalion remained in their defensive positions, sending out vigorous patrols to determine the enemy positions, strength and intentions. A 6-man reconnaissance patrol from E Co went to the town of la Cote, where they were informed by a Frenchman that there were Germans in the town. The patrol began a search of the houses, and drew fire. Another patrol went North along the railroad track, paralleling

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the 57 grid line, swung East to the hill at 377578 and spotted an SP gun at 380584.

A combat patrol left L Co CP at 1300 by vehicle to Chestel (362585), dismounted and moved up to clear the houses at 374588, in front of the G Co positions, near Le Petit Paris. At this point enemy resistance was encountered, estimated at 15 Germans, barricaded in the houses and dug in around them. The Germans opened up with 3 machine guns, rifles and mortars. The L Co patrol was engaged in a severe fire-fight, suffering seven wounded, two of whom were captured by the enemy. Upon return of the patrol, our artillery levelled the houses with observed fire.

The enemy maintained artillery and mortar fire all day on the forward positions, and probed our lines with reconnaissance patrols. The Germans threw 120 rounds on Co E in Vanemont and shelled Antitank Co with self-propelled guns.

Co E was on the right of the battalion sector, around Vanemont, Co F to their left. Co C defended the line West of Le Petit Paris and Antitank Co, acting as rifle troops, anchored the left flank of the battalion vic Chevry. The battalion defensive line stretched approximately six kilometres.

The 3d Bn remained in reserve, in pyramidal tents. A platoon from the 232d Engineers was attached to the 2d Bn to assist in the construction of dugouts.

During the night, the 522d Field Artillery Battalion and Cannon Co fired harassing missions on enemy positions and road junctions. The regiment remained in its defensive positions on the 15th, and sent out vigorous patrols.

Co G patrol left at 1100 from 366594 and started on the trail between 371595 and 372595. The patrol encountered sniper and machine gun fire from houses at this point. The patrol returned and artillery was put on the houses, scoring several direct hits. A French civilian reported to the patrol that there were 100 Germans in La Cote.

A patrol from I Co consisting of 8 men left 1400 from 371581, reached 372586 where they were fired on by machine guns. The patrol swung North to where L Co patrol had encountered fire on the preceding day. At this point the patrol was hit by mortar fire and had two wounded.

A reconnaissance patrol from K Co worked from point 368572, scouted along the railroad Northeast and entered the woods. They observed a group of 8 Germans at 372565, but as it was a reconnaissance patrol, did not engage in an action.

Another patrol from K Co left 1500, from 367566, spotted a German CP operating at 370569.

An Easy Co patrol of 6 men left 1200, from 361558, proceeded down the road South in direction of the open ground before Corcieux. They got as far as 365549 where they exchanged fire with some Germans in a group of houses. A Frenchman reported 30 Germans and 2 machine guns in the houses. The patrol returned and an artillery mission was fired.

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18 Nov Upon closing in at assembly area at Docelles, the 442d Regimental Combat Team was relieved from attachment to the 36th Infantry Division and reverted to VI Corps control, per Letter Hq VI Corps, 18 Nov 44.

The regiment remained in billets around Docelles and Deycimont. All personnel had hot showers, and the American Red Cross distributed doughnuts to the companies. 382 new Japanese-American replacements recently arrived from the U. S. joined the regiment, as well as 62 RTU's, returned to their units from the hospital.

Effective 1700 18 Nov 44, the 442d RCT (-106th Bn) was relieved from all attachment to VI Corps and reverted to control of Seventh Army, per Secret Letter AG 370.5-C, Hq 7th Army, 18 Nov 44, Subj: Movement Orders. The same letter directed the movement of the 442d RCT from its present location to NICE, FRANCE, upon arrival thereat to be attached to the 44th Antiaircraft Artillery Brigade for administration, supply and operations.

The move was to be made by organic transportation, plus 60 trucks (40 to be furnished by VI Corps, 20 by Seventh Army). The Combat Team prepared to leave the VOSGES MOUNTAINS SECTOR and proceed to the MARITIME ALPS.

The following letter from Major General John E. Dahlquist, Commanding General, 36th Infantry Division, was received:

- "1. The 36th Division regrets that the 442d Combat Team must be detached and sent on other duties. The period during which you have served, 14 October to 18 November 1944, was one of hard, intense fighting through terrain as difficult as any army has ever encountered.
2. The courage, steadfastness, and willingness of your officers and men were equal to any ever displayed by United States Troops.
3. Every officer and man of the Division joins me in sending our best personal regards and good wishes to every member of your command, and we hope that we may be honored again by having you as a member of our Division."

The strength of the 442d Regimental Combat Team at the conclusion of its operations in the Vosges Mountains, including replacements and RTU's, was as follows:

	<u>Offs</u>	<u>WC's</u>	<u>EM</u>
442d Infantry	96	6	1821
522d FA Bn	13	2	478
232d Eng (C) Co	5	-	156
206th ACF Band	-	-	29
Total	114	8	2484

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19 Nov The 442d Combat Team left the Vosges Mt area in motor convoy, leading elements crossing the IP at Docelles at 0730. The convoy passed through Darney and Langres and bivouacked for the night in the Bois le Parc, DIJON. 30% of the personnel were authorized 4 hour passes to visit the town.

The trip was resumed on the following day, through the cities of Chagny-sur-Saone and Villefranche, and reached VALENCE by nightfall, where the troops bivouacked in an open field.

On the third day the Combat Team completed its movement, passing through Montelimar, Avignon, Aix-en-Provence, Brignoles, Cannes, and closing in at ST JEANNET (near NICE) at 2100 21 Nov 44.

The trip was made in good weather over main roads. Distance covered - 540 miles. A 10 minute stop was made every two hours, with a noon break of 20 minutes for dinner of C rations. The kitchens prepared hot meals for breakfast and supper during the three days.

22 Nov The regiment unloaded equipment and set up bivouac near St. Jeannet.

MARITIME-ALPS SECTOR

See Map XXVII-42 MENTON, FRANCE

23 Nov Colonel PENCE rejoined the regiment from the hospital and resumed command. Forward CP opened at Nice.

The 3d Battalion moved up into the lines North and East of Sospel, France, at 0715, and relieved the 19th Armored Infantry Battalion in defensive positions. The 3d Bn CP was established near Sospel. While completing the relief L Co was shelled and one man was killed. The relief was completed at 1800 23 Nov 44. The 3d platoon of Antitank Co and 2d platoon of Cannon Co were attached to support the 3d Bn.

The new sector in which the regiment was engaged was the extremely mountainous Maritime Alps, on the French-Italian Border. As a part of the 44th AAA Brigade, the mission of the regiment was to hold positions in the mountains facing Italy, and protect the extreme right flank of the Sixth Army Group.

The Infantry had considerable difficulty in climbing the rugged peaks to get into position, and the steep trails with torturous hairpinturns made it necessary to use mule pack trains for supply of rations and ammunition.

The 2d Bn remained in reserve vic St. Jeannet. Thanksgiving Day services were held, and the traditional turkey dinner was enjoyed.

24 - 27 Nov The 3d Bn remained in place, improving its positions and sending out reconnaissance patrols and contact patrols between adjacent units. The rifle company platoons were spread out covering a wide front of approximately 7 km between Sospel and Moulinet. Co I was on the left, with Co K in the center on Mt Grosso and Co L on the right on Mt Grazian, Mt Diarus and Mt Le Perus.

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The battalion operated under a defensive set-up, with mines, booby-traps, trip flares and trip wires in front of the GPL. German activity was limited to occasional patrols and sporadic shelling of the battalion area and Sospel.

The 3d Battalion had direct artillery support from the 522d Field Artillery Bn, with two batteries in position, whose fire was reinforced by the 937th F.A. Bn (155mm). Cannon Co and Co M mortars also fired harassing fire on the enemy positions.

The battalion maintained contact with the 68th Airborne Infantry Battalion on the left flank, and the 1st Special Service Force on the right flank.

1 platoon of Antitank Co protected roadblocks around Sospel and provided a squad to conduct the mule trains over the mountain paths. Antitank Co of the 552d Infantry (-1 plt) was also attached to the 3d Bn.

The 2d Battalion remained in bivouac at St Jeannet, and continued a daily training program to maintain the combat efficiency of the experienced troops, and integrate the replacements.

28 Nov Co G, plus a platoon of heavy weapons from Co H, moved into the line on the right of the 3d Bn sector, relieving the left elements of the 1st Special Service Force.

The 100th Bn was returned to the regiment and entered the line on the outskirts of Menton, relieving the 1st Special Service Force. The return of the 100th Bn to the 442d Infantry was effected by Field Order No 3, Hq 44th AAA Brigade, 24 Nov 44. 1 platoon of Antitank Co, 1 platoon of Cannon Co and a platoon of Engineers was attached to the 100th Bn for operations.

With the 100th Bn on the right of the 3d Bn, the regimental front reached from the Mediterranean coast at Menton to Moulinet, a distance of 19 kilometres.

Antitank Co, 552d Inf was detached from the 442d as of 1800 28 Nov 44. At the same time 2d platoon, Co C, 40th Engrs was attached. The 442d Infantry had general support from the 421st Field Artillery Group, consisting of:

- | | |
|--------------------------|----------------------|
| 601 F. A. Bn - Pack 75mm | 68 F. A. Bn - 90mm |
| 602 F. A. Bn - Pack 75mm | 522 F. A. Bn - 105mm |
| 937 F. A. Bn - 155mm | 645 T. D. Bn - 3" |
| Naval Battery on call | |

The 2d Bn left St. Jeannet during the day, and moved up to an assembly area vic L'Escarene, a distance of 18 miles.

Weather was cold, but clear and sunny. Sleeping bags were issued to troops.

Four former enlisted men were awarded combat commissions as officers:

- | | | | |
|---------------------------|-----------|-------|---|
| 2d Lt Takao Hedani | C-1998669 | Inf) | |
| 2d Lt William C. Oshiro | C-1998050 | Inf (| SO 245, Hq 7th A, 28 Nov 44 |
| 2d Lt Jimmy T. Nakayama | C-1998049 | MAC) | |
| 2d Lt Conrad C. Tsukayama | C-1998655 | Inf | Ltr AG 210.1 Pers, Hq 7th A, 28 Nov 44, Subj: Aptmnt. |

S E C R E T

30 Nov Enemy artillery increased in intensity. Two shells hitting in the K Co area killed 1 man and wounded 3. Our artillery replied with counterbattery missions.

L 305

100TH BATTALION, 442D INFANTRY

For Period 8 November 1944 to 28 November 1944

- 8 Nov 100th Bn detached from 442d Infantry and 36th Infantry Division per secret letter Hq VI Corps, 8 Nov 44. Its movement to Bains-les-Bains and attachment to 45th Infantry Division upon arrival directed.
- 9 Nov Hot baths for troops at Lepanges. General clean up and repair of equipment. Troops alerted for movement.
- 10 Nov Troops left Bruyeres on trucks at 1200 and arrived in the vicinity of Bains les Bains at 1350. Movement completed at 1500 hours. Distance traveled 40 miles over good roads. Weather - heavy snow. Attached to 45th Division for administration and rations. Troops transported to Bains les Bains for hot baths. Morale - high.

Movement of the 100th Infantry Bn from Seventh Army Rest Area to NICE, FRANCE directed by letter AG 370.5-G, Hq 7th Army, 10 Nov 44, Subject: Movement Orders. Effective 11 Nov 44 100th Bn relieved of all present attachments and attached to 44th AAA Brigade for administration, supply and operations.
- 11 Nov Troops left Bains les Bains on trucks at 0900 and arrived at outskirts of Macon at 1800 hours. Distance travelled approximately 200 miles over good roads. Weather - heavy snow and very cold. Troops quartered in vacant houses. Had C Ration for dinner and hot supper served at bivouac area.
- 12 Nov Troops left Macon by trucks at 0830 and arrived in vicinity of Avignon at 1715 hrs. Distance traveled approximately 200 miles over good roads. Troops quartered in vacant steel mill.
- 13 Nov Troops left vicinity of Avignon by trucks at 0830 and arrived in vicinity of NICE at 1540. Distance travelled approximately 175 miles over good roads. Troops bivouacked in open field.
- 14 Nov General clean-up and repair of equipment. 25% of troops allowed to go to Nice on pass. Reconnaissance and quartering parties sent out to St Martin Vesubie.
- 15 Nov Left vicinity of Nice on trucks at 0900 and arrived in St Martin Vesubie at 1150.

S E C R E T

- 16 Nov Officers and EM from each company sent out with patrols of the 551st Parachute Infantry in respective sectors to learn patrol route and orient themselves.
- 17 Nov 100th Battalion relieved 551st Parachute Infantry; relief completed at 1730. Cos A, B, C, and D of the 100th Bn relieved Cos C, B, A, Hq Co respectively of the 551st.
- 18 Nov Each company sending out reconnaissance and security patrols. Battalion in defensive position.
- 19 - 25 Nov Situation remained static with only patrol activity and harassing artillery fire. On the 23d the traditional Thanksgiving Day dinner was brought up to the troops in their line positions.
- Relief of the 100th Bn by the 899th AAA Bn was effected 1930 25 Nov 44. At 260730 Nov 44 the battalion moved by truck from vic St Martin Vesubie to Menton. Battalion closed in 261100A in new assembly area vic Menton, and prepared to relieve the 1st Special Service Forces in the lines.
- 28 Nov 100th Battalion relieved the 1st Special Service Force from Menton to vic Castillon, on the French-Italian Border. The battalion reverted to control of parent unit, per Field Order No. 3, Hq 44th AAA Brigade, 24 Nov 44.