

RG 407 RECORDS OF THE ADJUTANT GENERAL'S
OFFICE, 1917 -

WW II OPERATIONS REPORTS, 1941 - 48

101st Airborne Division

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Entry 427

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Box 11809

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HEADQUARTERS 502ND PARACHUTE INFANTRY
APO #472, U. S. Army

9 March 1944

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2-8-50

SUBJECT: Historical Record.

TO : Commanding Officer, 101st A/B Division, APO 472, U. S. Army

1. Maps - France - Belgium 1/100000, Sheets 13, 17 and T-1.
France - Belgium 1/50,000, Sheets 106 and 121.

2. On 1 December 1944 the 502nd Parachute Infantry, 101st Airborne Division, commanded by Colonel (then Lt. Colonel) Steve A. Chappuis, 020899, of Rayne, Louisiana, was in garrison at Camp Mourmelon, France. The Regiment had just arrived at their present camp after spending approximately seventy-five (75) days on line in Holland in the vicinity of Eindhoven and Nijmegen, attached to the British 2nd Army.

Upon arriving in Camp Mourmelon the Battalions were given a period of ten (10) days to improve their areas, make checks on individual clothing and equipment and to give all personnel a much needed rest with training limited to close order drill and calisthenics. At the same time the Regiment received a number of reinforcements. These reinforcements were immediately assigned to their respective companies. A reinforcement company was set up in each battalion to give the new men their indoctrination training and by 11 December 1944 they were ready to begin training with their assigned companies.

Only one (1) week of training was completed before moving to Bastogne. This period of instruction stressed individual training, squad and platoon problems and specialized training to include small arms, light machine guns, bazooka and 60mm mortar school. This phase of training was selected so as to give the reinforcements and the older men in the regiment an opportunity to become a well coordinated team and to give each squad and platoon leader a chance to find exactly what his particular unit needed most in the manner of training

-1-

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At 2100 hours on the 17 December 1944 the Regimental Commander received an "Alert Order" and was told that his regiment would be prepared to move to the vicinity of Bastogne, Belgium, by 19 December 1944. A short time later the time of departure was changed to 18 December 1944. This change gave the Regiment less than 24 hours to prepare for the move.

At about 1300 hours on 18 December 1944, 1st Lt. Sidney F. Atkins, O 128 6226 of Alice Texas, who was in charge of the advance party, left the camp area for Bastogne, Belgium. He was to meet Colonel Renfro at that point and receive orders as to the area that the regiment would initially occupy.

Troops of the Regiment loaded into ten ton trucks at Camp Mourmelon at about 1800 hours, 18 December 1944 and began the trip which was to end at Bastogne. They reached their destination, Mande St. Entinne, Belgium at about 0400 hours 19 December 1944 and were met at that time by members of the advance party. Because of the heavy traffic and congestion at the detrucking point it was not until 0730 hours that the troops unloaded and moved into their bivouac area near Mande St. Entinne, Belgium (coordinates - 500598)

At about 1800 hours on 19 December 1944 the Regiment was moved to the vicinity of Rolle (coordinates - 530619) and Longchamps (coordinates - 538636) and ordered to defend that area. Colonel Chappuis in his Regimental Order placed the 1st and 2nd Battalions on line and held the 3rd Battalion in Regimental Reserve near Rolle. The 2nd Battalion was ordered to defend Longchamps and the 1st Battalion to defend Monaville (coordinates - 545638) and establish contact with the 506th Parachute Infantry on the right. A short time later Division decreed that the area assigned the 502nd Parachute Infantry would be held with one battalion and that two battalions would be held in reserve. At this time the Regiment constituted a part of the Division Reserve. As a result of that order the 1st Battalion was pulled back into Regimental Reserve, leaving only the 2nd Battalion on line. Contact with the 506th Parachute Infantry at this time was maintained by patrols.

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On the morning of 20 December 1944 the 3rd Battalion with 4 TD's attached, under the command of Lt. Col. Stopka, O25 263, from Wyoming, attacked in a North-easterly direction toward Recogne (coordinates - 570634) to support the 506th Parachute Infantry in their drive on Foy (coordinates - 523647). The attack was successful with only light enemy resistance encountered and by 1300 hours their objective had been taken. Lt. Colonel Stopka had his battalion establish a defensive position North of Sonne Fontaine (coordinates - 558629) tying in with the 506th Parachute Infantry on the right. Lt. Colonel (then Major) John D. Hanlon, O 337 023, from Mass., still had his 1st Battalion less Company "A", in Regimental Reserve near Rolle. The 2nd Battalion commanded by Lt. Colonel Thomas N. Sutcliffe, O 352 730, from North Carolina, with Company "A" attached was still defending Longchamps.

During the period from 20 December to 24 December 1944 very little change was made in the tactical disposition of the Regiment.

On the 21 December, Company "A", commanded by Captain Wallace A. Swanson, O 414 293, from Kansas, reverted to control of 1st Battalion. This caused the 2nd Battalion to put three companies on line to fill in the gap left by Company "A". The 3rd Battalion received one attack during the period which was successfully beaten off. From 20 December to 24 December most of the activity in the Regiment was limited to patrols to Givry (coordinates - 502640), Rouette (coordinates - 512635), and Givroulle (coordinates - 483645). These patrols were led by 1st Lt. David E. White, O1 011 189, from Missouri and 2nd Lt. (then S/Sgt) Graham Armstrong, O2 007 144, from North Carolina. From their reports we determined that the enemy was occupying positions along our entire Regimental Front. Numerous patrols were sent from the battalions to determine the enemy positions and installations.

On 22 December 1944 Company "A" was again detached from the 1st Battalion and ordered to set up a defensive position Northwest of Champs (coordinates - 521621), and establish contact with the 2nd Battalion.

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The remainder of the 1st Battalion constituted the Regimental Reserve at Hemroulle (coordinates - 534602).

At 0300 hours on the 25 December 1944 "A" Company's position and the left flank of the 2nd Battalion received intense artillery and mortar fire. This fire preceded a concentrated attack which hit our lines at 0400 hours. Prisoners of War later stated that the enemy strength in the attack was one (1) battalion. After very bitter fighting the enemy was successful in pushing "A" Company lines back temporarily and hand to hand street fighting ensued.

Lt. Colonel Hanlon was ordered by the Regimental Commander to counterattack with the remainder of his Battalion and restore "A" Company's original lines. Before the 1st Battalion could get to Champs, Company "A" had already driven the enemy from the town and occupied their original lines. Due to this action Companies "B" and "C" were halted along the road from Hemroulle to Champs. They remained in this position until 0700 hours and consequently were able to meet an enemy penetration which was made in this sector a short time later.

After the fighting in Champs had quietened down, seven (7) tanks with Infantry penetrated the 327th Glider Infantry lines, reached an area 500 yards behind the Regimental C.P. A composite group turned out to meet the attacking forces. This force consisted of "B" Company commanded by Captain George R. Cody, O 422 178, from Alabama, 1st Lt. Samuel B. Nickels, O 390, 298, from Virginia and Captain Ivan R. Hershner Jr., O 362 446, from Nebraska in command of the Regimental Command Group. Under the superior leadership of these officers and the daring action of all concerned, the enemy, after about three hours was annihilated and the seven tanks knocked out.

Due to the obvious build up North of Champ, Colonel Chappuis decided to strengthen the defense around Champs and the entire 1st Battalion was put on line.

-4-

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From the 26 December to the 29 December activity was limited to patrols. Numerous patrols were sent out during the period from the Regimental S-2 and from front line battalions. All patrols reported a definite build up of troops in the Compogne (coordinates - 552672), Bertogne (coordinates - 524672), Rouette, (coordinates - 512635), Givry (coordinates - 502640) and Givroulle (coordinates - 483645), and Gives (coordinates - 500656) sector. These statements were further substantiated by the increase of enemy artillery and mortar fire over the Regimental Area.

On the 31 December the 1st Battalion again received an concentrated attack in their sector. The 1st Battalion lines were again temporarily pushed back. After about two hours of bitter fighting the enemy had been driven off and the original lines restored. Enemy casualties were very heavy with only a few reported from our own forces.

On 31 December 1944 the 502nd Parachute Infantry occupied a defensive line from Champs, Longchamps, Monaville (coordinates - 545638) and Sonne-Fontaine (coordinates 558629, with the Regimental C.P. being at Rolle. The 1st Battalion defended the sector around Champs, the 2nd Battalion Longchamps and the 3rd Battalion occupied and defended the sector North of Sonne-Fontaine. Contact was maintained with the 506th Parachute Infantry on the right and 327th Glider Infantry on the left.

-5-

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HEADQUARTERS 502ND PARACHUTE INFANTRY
Office of the Regimental Commander
A. P. O. #472, c/o Postmaster
New York, New York

15 March 1945

SUBJECT: After Action Report.

TO : The Adjutant General, Washington 25, D.C.

Transmitted herewith after action report of 502d Parachute Infantry from 1 January 1945 to 31 January 1945 with critique notes and conclusions.

1. On 1 January 1945, the 502d Parachute Infantry held a 7000 yard defensive line running generally through Champs, Longchamps, Monaville and Son Fontaine, Belgium. All battalions were on the line less one (1) company in Regimental Reserve. The anti-tank defense consisted of five (5) 57 mm anti-tank guns and eight (8) tank destroyers. Vigorous patrolling by all units indicated a large enemy build-up to the north of Longchamps. On the morning of 3 January, units on the line reported considerable activity to their front. This information was obtained from listening posts as the visibility was zero due to a heavy ground fog. At about 1300 hours, 3 January, a concentrated attack consisting of about twenty-five (25) tanks and a battalion of Infantry hit the right flank of the 2nd Battalion. Four (4) of the 57mm anti-tank guns were knocked out although only after inflicting considerable damage on the enemy's armor. A number of tanks penetrated the main line of resistance but our Infantry remained in position and succeeded in stopping all of the enemy Infantry and part of the tanks. A gap had been created between the 2nd and 3rd Battalions and the Reserve Company of the 2nd Battalion was committed to fill this gap. In moving up to the attack they were forced to cross open ground and received heavy casualties. One platoon became cut off by tanks and was captured. By 1630 hours the attack had been beaten off and the main line of resistance restored. Team Cherry, part of the Divisional Reserve, had been dispatched to support the 2nd Battalion but did not close into position south of Longchamps until after the battle was over. During the night of the 3rd of January, the 1st Battalion, on the left was relieved by the 327th Infantry. A prisoner was captured about midnight and stated that there was to be another concentrated attack early in the morning of the 4th. From 0300 hours on the artillery concentration consisting of from one to nine battalions, was thrown on the area north of Longchamps. A prisoner that was later captured stated that the artillery fire had broken up a second attack to be launched at 0400 hours on the morning of the 4th. During the morning of the 4th, the 327th Infantry, which had relieved our 1st Battalion, received an attack of Infantry and tanks which penetrated their line of resistance. About the same time another attack consisting mainly of tanks was thrown against the left flank of the 2nd Battalion. This was stopped only after quite heavy casualties were received from tank cannon fire. Division ordered the 1st Battalion, which had moved back into Regimental Reserve to be

- 1 -

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(Hq 502d Prcht Inf, Sub:"After Action Report", 15 Mar 45, cont'd)

committed to restore the main line of resistance in the 327th sector. By 1700 hours the 1st Battalion had succeeded in accomplishing their mission and were ordered back under control of the 502nd Parachute Infantry. On the 5th of January, readjustments were made shortening our lines. The 2nd Battalion was left in position at Longchamps and the 1st Battalion went into Regimental Reserve and the 3rd Battalion moved to Savy as Division Reserve. On 9 January, the 3rd Battalion returned to 502nd control and was ordered to make an attack on the right flank of the 2nd Battalion to protect the 506th Parachute Infantry which was attacking northeast toward Noville. By 1030 hours, 10 January, the 3rd Battalion had reached its objective, though they had received quite heavy casualties, both from small arms and enemy artillery. On the 12th of January at about 2300 hours, the Regiment was relieved of its sector by the 11th Armored Division in preparation for an attack northwest out of Bastogne toward Bourcy, Belgium. The attack jumped off on time on the morning of the 13th. The mission of the Regiment was to take the high ground north of Bourcy and to protect the right flank of the Division while maintaining contact with the 6th Armored Division on our right. For five straight days the Regiment attacked under the most difficult conditions of terrain and weather yet encountered. The town of Bourcy was finally taken on the morning of the 17th of January. The most difficult part of this operation was the fact that we were attempting to attack frontly against a well organized enemy and at the same time were receiving attacks from our flank. On the 18th of January the Regiment was relieved and moved to Chane in a reserve area. The 21st of January the Regiment entrucked and moved to the 7th Army Sector in Alsace. From this time on, up to the 31st of January, the Regiment occupied various tactical bivouac areas in the Alsace Sector.

Conclusions:

1. Through the month of January the extreme cold weather became second only to the enemy as an obstacle in the accomplishment of assigned missions. Bad weather is advantageous to the defending troops and an added handicap in the attack.
2. A main line of resistance can be held even though overrun by tanks if troops have well-prepared foxholes and the guts to stay in position in the face of tank attacks.
3. Rapid interrogation of prisoners and the dissemination of this information must be stressed at all times.
4. The close artillery-Infantry liason and the quick massing of armor definitely broke up a major attack against this Regiment.
5. Very close liason and planning must be maintained with units on the right and left, especially when the Divisional boundry is also a Corps boundry.
6. More time should be given for the issuing of orders especially when a unit is in a continuous attack over a period of more than two or three days.

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- 2 -
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HEADQUARTERS 502ND PARACHUTE INFANTRY
APO # 472, U. S. Army

13 March 1945

SUBJECT: Historical Narrative.

TO : Commanding Officer, 101st A/B Division, APO #472, U. S. Army.

1. Maps: France - Belgium, Sheets 106, 107, 121 and 122, 1/50,000.
Eastern France, Sheets V-1 and V-2, 1/100,000.

2. On 1 January 1945 the 502nd Parachute Infantry continued to hold its sector of the perimeter defense of Bastogne assigned by the 101st Airborne Division, with a line running generally Champs (521621), Longchamps (538636), Monville (545638), and Serme Fontaine (558629). Contact was maintained with the 506th Parachute Infantry on the right at road junction (565628) and with the 327th Glider Infantry on the left at cross road (512612).

Activity on 1 January and 2 January 1945 was limited to patrols. The patrols during this period were all reconnaissance and operated chiefly in the area North and Northwest of Longchamps. Only one was sent in a North-easterly direction to the Les Assins Woods (5565). All patrols reported an obvious enemy build up in the area West and North of Longchamps. Very heavy traffic was observed on the Bastogne (522672) Compogne (550672) highway.

At 1310 hours 3 January 1945 the 2nd Battalion reported tanks operating in front of their lines. Because of the heavy fog they could not be seen, only heard. By 1330 hours the attack was in full swing with the enemy forces, established as being 25 tanks and approximately one battalion of infantry. The majority of the attacking forces came from the vicinity of Compogne, moving South along the main road reaching the cross road at (545648) and then fanning out for the attack.

- 1 -

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Six of the attacking tanks immediately moved across the front of Company "D", commanded by Captain (then 1st Lt.) Francis F. Rainey O1 283 837, from Illinois, and set up a base of fire West of the Bertogne-Longchamps road. These tanks set-up generally on a line (528645), (531646) and fired continuously throughout the attack. They were responsible for knocking out a number of our AT guns and automatic weapons. Five other tanks moved to a point approximately 400 yards Northwest of Longchamps in front of Company "E", commanded by Captain Robert S. Dickson III, O 376 992, from Illinois. They also remained in position and fired throughout the action. These 11 tanks never made an attempt to move toward our lines but remained in position firing their machine guns and tank cannons, spraying the entire 2nd Battalion area. Their fire was very effective and aided the enemy immeasurably in keeping our men out of their firing position and down in their fox holes.

The remaining 14 tanks actually penetrated our lines but never to a depth of over 75 yards. Eight (8) of these tanks attacked from an area Northeast of Monville, the main effort being against the 1st platoon of Company "E", commanded by 1st Lt. Thomas Bunn, O1 301 750, from Texas. The other 6 attacked from an area Northeast of Monville, hitting our lines on the limiting point between the 2nd and 3rd Battalions. An attempt was made to plug the gap between the 2nd and 3rd Battalions by placing Company "F", the reserve company, commanded by Captain Earl Hendricks, O 408 559, from Ohio, on line. This attempt was unsuccessful. Company "F" was caught in the open without cover or concealment, by enemy tanks and infantry and suffered heavy casualties, one of which was the Company Commander. It was only by well directed cross fire of Company "D" and Company "I" that the enemy was driven off and the initial lines restored.

- 2 -

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The attack lasted for approximately 3 hours. At 1630 hours it had been completely beaten off. Because of the heroic actions of each individual the enemy infantry, supporting the tanks, were never able to penetrate our lines. Over two-thirds of the enemy tanks engaged in the action were either damaged or destroyed. Many of them, however, were retrieved by the Germans and were probably used against our forces at a later date.

The 2nd Battalion AT defense initially consisted of 5 57 AT guns from the 81st AA AT Battalion and 4 TD's from the 705th TD Battalion. Most of these guns were knocked out by the initial drive of the enemy, reducing our AT defense, chiefly to bazookas and grenades. After the attack, Team Cherry of the 10th Armored Division was attached to the regiment and moved into position on the high ground 1000 yards South of Longchamps. They were not, however, in position in time to support the 2nd Battalion.

A second attack, by infantry, was launched against the 2nd Battalion at 0530 hours but was repulsed by artillery and long range small arms fire. During the attack on 2nd Battalion one of the prisoners captured, stated that another attack was to be made the next morning from the same general sector. Because of this information, Colonel Chappuis called for and received all of Division Artillery, to be fired at 30 minute intervals on that sector throughout the night. A prisoner captured the next day confirmed the report that the attack had been scheduled but because of our well placed artillery their troops had been scattered and never able to reform for the attack.

On 4 January 1945 the 1st Battalion of the 327th Glider Infantry relieved our 1st Battalion of the sector around Champs. Our 1st Battalion reverted to regimental reserve. Shortly after the relief had been completed the 327th Glider Infantry received a heavy attack and their lines penetrated. On Division order our 1st Battalion was committed in their sector. After bitter street fighting the enemy was again beaten off and the 327th lines restored. The 1st Battalion

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again reverted back to Regimental Reserve.

On 5 January the 3rd Battalion was relieved by elements of the 506th Parachute Infantry and reverted to Division control in Savy (546600). The Regiment at this time had only the 2nd Battalion on line, the 1st Battalion in Regimental Reserve on the high ground 1000 yards South of Longchamps and the 3rd Battalion in Division Reserve at Savy.

On 6 January 1945 activity was again very light on the Regimental Front. The 1st Battalion replaced the 2nd Battalion on line in Longchamps as of 2050 hours. A strong combat patrol commanded by 1st Lt. Robert M. Banker, OI 297 654, from New York, moved to a point approximately 500 yards in Northwest of Longchamps, along the Longchamps - Bertogne road and captured 15 prisoners.

Combat patrols were sent to the Boise de Fays and Boise de Falize on the 7th of January. Their mission was to seize prisoners. No enemy was encountered by the patrols and the troops returned to our lines with a negative report.

The 3rd Battalion which had been in Division Reserve reverted to regimental control on 8 January in preparation for an attack through the Les Assins Woods. The 1st Battalion remained on line in Longchamps and the 2nd Battalion occupied the Regimental Reserve line 1000 yards South of Longchamps.

Elements of the 17th Airborne Division relieved the 327th Glider Infantry on 9 January 1945. Company "B" 327th Glider Infantry was attached, this date to the Regiment so as to strengthen the 1st Battalion lines. Company "B" was responsible for making contact with the 1st Battalion on its right and the 17th Airborne Division on its left.

At 1100 hours, 9 January 1945 the 3rd Battalion, with Company "E" attached crossed the L.D. in an attack to the North through the Les Assins Woods. Their mission was to act as left flank protection for the 506th Parachute Infantry and to clear the Les Assins Woods. Initially their attack met very little resistance but as they neared the objective they met increased resistance, including heavy small arms and automatic weapons fire.

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Lt. Colonel Stopka was compelled to commit his reserve just Northeast of Etany de Fazone.

The 3rd Battalion reached their last phase line before the objective when they were held up and ordered to dig in. Contact was established with the 506th Parachute Infantry on the right and the 2nd Battalion 502nd Parachute Infantry on the left and the troops settled for the night.

During this attack the regiment encountered its first tactical wire, both single and double apron fences. This definitely indicated a well planned and organized defense. Artillery and mortar fire was extremely heavy throughout the attack. In the afternoon of 9 January 1945, Company "B" 327th Glider Infantry was detached from the regiment and the 2nd Battalion 502nd Parachute Infantry was placed on line to occupy their sector.

On 10 January 1945 the 3rd Battalion continued its attack in the Les Assins Woods and had taken their objective by 1030 hours. Enemy resistance was light but very heavy artillery and mortar fire was encountered. Since the entire attack was made through heavy woods almost all artillery and mortar fire resulted in tree bursts and consequently was much more effective. A great majority of our casualties, during the attack, was caused not from small arms and automatic weapons fire but from artillery.

At 1800 hours the 3rd Battalion was ordered to withdraw from their positions because Division was shortening their lines. By 2115 hours they had withdrawn to a regimental reserve position in the vicinity of Withimont (540630).

On 12 January 1945 the 1st and 3rd Battalions were relieved by elements of the 11th Armored and moved to forward assembly areas Northeast of Bastogne in preparation for an attack toward Bourcy. The 1st Battalion was in position by 0245 hours and the 3rd Battalion by 0700 hours, 13 January 1945. The 2nd Battalion remained in position West of Longchamps. The Regimental CP moved to Bastogne this date. The new CP was set up as of 2400 hours.

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At 0830 hours on 13 January 1945, the 1st and 3rd Battalions with the following attachments; Co. "C" 705th TD Battalion, Battery "C" 81st AA AT Battalion, 3rd Tank Battalion of the 10th Armored and 2 platoons of the 326th Airborne Engineer Battalion attacked in a Northeasterly direction with the mission of clearing the Eastern sector of Le Boise de Jacques and to protect the right flank of the Division. The regiment attacked in a column of Battalions in the order of 1st and 3rd Battalions with their left flank guiding on the railroad track running from Bastogne to Bourcy. Initially enemy resistance was light but as the attack progressed resistance became stronger, particularly on the right flank. The regiment reached a line approximately 1500 yards short of their objective and were held up at that point by small arms, automatic weapons and tank fire. Artillery fire was very heavy during the entire attack and again tree bursts caused many casualties.

The enemy troops were extremely well dug in and offered very stubborn resistance. At the point where the regiment was held up contact by patrols was made with the 327th Glider Infantry on the left and the regiment dug in for the night.

During the day the 2nd Battalion had been relieved from their position at Longchamps and had reverted to Division reserve near Savy.

On the 14 January 1945 the 1st and 3rd Battalions continued their attack toward the regimental objective. The 1st Battalion pulled in to a closer proximity of the railroad track and continued forward still protecting the right flank of the Division. The 3rd Battalion was pulled over to the left of the railroad track and was to pass through the 327th Glider Infantry lines and flank the objective. During the night the enemy had infiltrated through a gap between the 327th Glider Infantry and the 502nd Parachute Infantry lines and set up a new defensive position.

- 6 -

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- 6 -

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They offered very stiff resistance to the 3rd Battalion. The attack was unable to progress and was completely held up 500 yards short of the objective. At 1800 hours the attack was halted and the regiment ordered to defend the ground they held. Contact at this time was made with the 320th Armored Infantry on the right and the 327th Glider Infantry on the left.

The 2nd Battalion reverted from Division reserve to regimental reserve as of 1600 hours. They moved to a position in the Northeastern sector of the Le Boise de Jacques and were in position by 2400 hours.

The regiment received very close air support during this attack. Two bombs dropped behind our lines killing the 3rd Battalion Commander, Lt. Colonel Stopka. Major Cecil L. Simmons, 360 399, from Michigan, assumed command.

The 2nd Battalion moved through the 3rd Battalion at 0830 hours on 15 January 1945 and succeeded in taking the regimental objective. The 1st and 3rd Battalions positions did not change during the day.

On 16 January 1945 the regiment was again ordered to attack and take Bourcy. The LD was crossed at 0830 hours with the 2nd and 3rd Battalions as the attacking echelon. The 1st and 3rd Battalions were successful in reaching the high ground Southwest of Bourcy but when they attempted to pass over the high ground on to Bourcy they encountered extremely heavy fire and could not move forward. The troops were ordered to hold up and dig in at this point. The following day the regiment again renewed its attack on Bourcy. The 1st Battalion crossed the LD at 0830 hours. Their objective was to move to the Northwest of Bourcy, take the high ground and woods in that sector and protect the left flank of the 2nd and 3rd Battalions, also to establish contact with the 327th Glider Infantry on the left. The 2nd and 3rd Battalions crossed the LD at 0900 hours in a frontal attack on Bourcy. The objective was taken by 1030 hours with only light opposition encountered.

- 7 -

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On 18 January 1945 elements of the 11th Armored Division relieved the 502nd Parachute Infantry in and around Bourcy and at 0630 hours the last unit had closed into a regimental assembly area 1500 yards West of Foy (578626).

At 1130 hours the regiment began entrucking at Foy for movement to Chene, Belgium. The last elements closed into Chene, Belgium and vicinity at 0130 hours, 19 January 1945. The regiment remained in Chene, Belgium and vicinity from 19 January 1945 to 21 January 1945 at which time they entrucked for movement to Asswiller, Alsace (622312), Map: Eastern France, V-1 and V-2, 1/100,000. The 377th Parachute FA Battalion was attached to the regiment for the move. The leading elements closed into Asswiller and vicinity at 0130 hours 22 January 1945.

During the period from 22 January 1945 until 26 January 1945 the regiment remained in a reserve area in Asswiller and vicinity. No tactical disposition of the Regiment was made during that time.

At 1400 hours 27 January 1945 the 502nd Parachute Infantry moved by truck to Schaffhausen, Alsace (873147) at which time the 1st Battalion became 101st A/B Division reserve. The entire regiment had closed into its new area by 2030 hours. The 1st Battalion was located at Miniversheim (915205). The 2nd Battalion at Hohfrankeheim (883145) and the 3rd Battalion at Mutzenhouse (873147) and the Regimental CP at Schaffhausen (873147).

At 1300 hours 29 January 1945 the regiment moved to Alteckendorf, Alsace (898214). The 1st Battalion at this time reverted to regimental control and the entire regiment became Division reserve. Regimental Hq. and the 2nd Battalion were billeted in Alteckendorf. The 1st and 3rd Battalions were billeted in Miniversheim (915205).

The 502nd Parachute Infantry remained in Alteckendorf, as Division reserve, until the end of the period.

- 8 -

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Prior to the attack on Bourcy the regiment occupied a defensive position at Longchamps, Belgium for 25 days. Throughout this period adverse weather prevailed. Troops were continually operating in snow ranging from 1 to 3 feet in depth. Operations during this period presented many difficulties of which the regiment had never experienced previously.

Air support, during the defense of Bastogne, Belgium and the attacks to the Northeast toward Bourcy, Belgium, was generally very good. Only a minimum of the strafing and bombing was ineffective. During the period approximately six bombs were dropped behind our own lines and the damage inflicted was slight.

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- 9 -

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