



HEADQUARTERS III U. S. CORPS  
3rd Information and Historical Service  
(Team "K")

23 January 1945

ARDENNES CAMPAIGN  
137th Infantry Regiment, 35th Infantry Division  
21 December 1944 to 11 January 1945

The 137th Infantry Regiment was relieved by the 320th Infantry Regt of the 44th Infantry Div at 2400 21 December 1944. Oral orders, later confirmed, effected the relief. By 2255 the 1st Bn's relief by the 324th was completed, the 2nd Bn's by 2200.

On the 22nd the 2nd Bn moved from NEUNKIRCH (P544258) to REMERING (P5412480). The 1st Bn moved to GRUNDWEILLER (P544249). By 0400 the 137th was at MOULINS just outside of METZ. There 220 enlisted reinforcement and 8 officer replacements were received.

The route to the north was: GRAVELOT, DOMCOURT, VARNY, CONFLANS, THUMEREVILLE, NORREY, LANDRES, ROUMY, CORCOURT, MERCY, BAZAILLE.

Enroute, the 737th Tank Bn was assigned to the 5th Infantry Div whose tanks were assigned to the 23th Infantry Div. Thus the anti-tank protection for the 35th Infantry Div were bazookas and the 654th Tank Destroyer Bn.

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On the 26th of December oral fragmentary orders, confirmed by written orders including boundaries and objectives, directed movement to TINTANGE (P5744) which was the Regimental CP. The movement was made by truck.

On this same day, the 35th Infantry Div relieved the 6th Cavalry Sq in its zone. With the 320th Regimental Combat Team on its right, the 137th infantry Regt pushed northward. The 3rd Bn advanced through HONVILLE (P5547) and LIVARCHAMPS (P5648). It remained at LIVARCHAMPS on the 27th and pushed forward again on the 28th.

On the night of the 29th, the 3rd Bn proceeded into VILLERS LA BONNE EAU (P5750). Cos K and L were lost in town. The enemy counter-attacked on the morning of the 31st. 169 men from Cos K, L and M were either killed or captured. The remainder of the Battalion withdrew to high ground south of the town.

Enemy opposition included elements from the 1st SS Panzer Div, the 5th Para Div, and the Adolph Hitler Brigade.

On the 27th the 35th Infantry Div attacked and crossed the LA SURE River, the 2nd Bn at 1015 and the 3rd Bn at 1110. These two Battalions were abreast with the 1st Bn in reserve. The 1st Bn assisted the 2nd Bn in taking SURRE (P5946) which was reported clear at 271815.

On the 28th the attack was continued. The 2nd Bn pushed due north from SURRE. The 1st Bn swung around the left of the 2nd Bn through the BOIS DE SURRE. The 3rd Bn continued in its zone to take LIVARCHAMPS (P5648) The 320th Infantry Regt was on the right and the 134th on the left. The 2nd Bn of the 137th almost pushed the Germans out of the northernmost portion of the BOIS DE SURRE.



At 1800 on the 29th, the 137th Infantry Regt was ordered to halt its advance, but to continue the attack at 300800.

Census 29 December: 3 Killed in action, 30 wounded in action, no prisoners.

On 30 December the 3rd Bn was situated southwest of VILLERS LA BONNE EAU (P5750), the 1st Bn was assembled in reserve near LIVARCHAMPS (P5648) and the 2nd Bn had its companies on the northern edge of the SURRE woods near HARLANGE (P6049).

On the 31st 235 men were lost by the 3rd Bn, of which 81 got back.

At 311320, Cos B and C of the 1st Bn jumped off for VILLERS LA BONNE EAU. They entered the town and occupied some of the buildings. Two enemy tanks, remaining out of bazooka range, commenced firing on the riflemen. At 1600 the Battalion was ordered to pull back and the Regiment dug in for the night with orders to continue the operation the following morning. At 1730 Co C was thrown back by the enemy but by 2000 had regained the lost ground.

The 2nd Bn, less Co G, moved back to SURRE. Co G remained in the BOIS DE SURRE to hold the right flank of the 137th Infantry Regt sector.

Census 31 December: 1 killed, 2 wounded, 37 prisoners. The 3rd Bn had 235 men missing.

On 1 January 1945 the 1st Bn was in position south of VILLERS LA BONNE EAU, and the 2nd Bn had Cos E and F west and southwest of the town, while Co G guarded the regimental right flank in LUXEMBOURG.

At 0255 Regiment ordered Co D, 3rd Chemical Bn to fire on the woods northwest of VILLERS LA BONNE EAU. The 1st Bn of the 320th Infantry Regt was attached to the 137th was was to be committed on Division order only.

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At 1330 1 January the 137th Infantry Regt jumped off to make another attempt to break into town. Patrolling preceded the jump off.

Co B and a platoon of the 654th Tank Destroyer Bn was attached.

The 1st Bn requested 4.2 mortar support during its drive.

At 1700 Co E relieved Co I which had been in the woods west of VILLERS LA BONNE EAU for four days and nights, and had almost completed cleaning out the woods. On the 1st of January, Co G, on the regimental right flank drove off two counter-attacks. At 1810 the Regiment was ordered to halt the advance for the night, to dig in, and to mine the roads.

On the 2nd the attack on VILLERS LA BONNE EAU was continued.

On the 3rd two prisoners were taken.

On the 4th the 320th Infantry Regt took HARLANGE (P6049)

On the 5th the 1st Bn 320th Infantry Regt reverted to its parent unit. The 6th Cavalry Sq had a screening mission along the bulge into the 137th Infantry Regt's sector between TINTANGE (P5744) and HONVILLE (P5547). 35 men were wounded, 8 were killed, none were missing and no prisoners had been taken.

On 9 January the 137th Infantry Regt jumped off at 1000 with Co C 735th Tank Bn and Co B and 1 Platoon of Co C of the 654th Tank Destroyer Bn in support. The 1st Bn moved out with Cos A and C leading and Co B striking to the right of Co C. The 2nd Bn went toward VILLERS LA BONNE EAU with Cos E and G on line, and Co F in reserve. The 3rd Bn, on the left of the 1st Bn, maintained contact with the 134th Infantry Regt. This attack was checked.

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On the 10th the 137th Infantry Regt attacked at 0915 with the same supporting elements plus Co D, 3rd Chemical Bn. The 1st Bn had 1 platoon Co C 654th Tank Destroyer Bn, 1 platoon of the Regimental Anti-tank Co, 1 platoon of the cannon Co, all in direct support. VILLERS LA BONNE EAU was taken by the 2nd Bn.

At 1700 on the 11th, the 137th Infantry Regt was pinched out by the 134th Infantry Regt and Task Force Fickett.

Source - Capt Shoemaker, Asst S-3, 137th Infantry Regt.

Interviewer - T/Sgt C. J. Angulo.

Date of Interview - 13 January 1945.

Map Reference - GSGS 4041-Sheets Bastogne NE and SE, 1:25,000.