



Paragraph I, B, 1. (continued)

At noon, the 2nd and 3rd Battalions were ordered to continue their movement to the south. The 3rd Battalion moved against little enemy resistance, except for snipers. In the early afternoon, the 2nd Battalion encountered stubborn resistance at VESILLI. Late in the afternoon, this resistance was overcome and the battalion continued to move southward. The movement continued until dark, when the battalion assumed a defensive position about a mile southwest of LA FOLLE. During the night 9-10 June, the 2nd Battalion was attacked by the Germans and suffered considerable losses, and was disorganized. Throughout the period 8-9 June, the 1st Battalion remained in a defensive position at ERICQUEVILLE, where it suffered almost continuous attack from the Germans from the vicinity of TREVIENES. As the other two battalions had moved miles south of the Germans at TREVIENES, the 1st battalion had the mission of protecting the left rear of the regiment.

2. 2nd Battalion Incident

At approximately 0245 hours, 10 June 1944, a closing force of German Armor and Infantry which had been by-passed and cut off to our rear and was attempting to retreat to its own lines stumbled on the rear of 2nd Battalion column to the surprise of both units. Opening fire with their MG's, mortars and 88's a heavy and confused action occurred in the dark with severe losses on both sides. Two enemy tanks were knocked out, plus a 150mm field piece. The 2nd Battalion was left in a dispersed and disorganized state and control was not regained until after daylight. Battalion C.O., Lt. Col. William E. Warfield was found dead, believed to have been killed at approximately 0300 hours. Replacements were received and the remainder of battalion were reorganized under command of Lt. Col. Arthur T. Shoppe.

C. Phase #3

1. Elle River Crossing

The regiment remained in defensive positions, and patrolled across the Elle River. During the day, 12 June 44, the patrols could not cross the river because of heavy fire from the banks. In the afternoon, the regiment was warned that it would be required to attack across the river the next morning.

At 0245 hours, orders were received for an attack at 0500 hours 12 June 44. The 1st and 3rd Battalions attacked the river line abreast and the 1st Battalion on the right. During the preparatory fires German artillery fired into the troops forming the line of departure causing several casualties. This delayed the attack. At 0800 hours, the attack jumped off. The 1st Battalion was unsuccessful in crossing and moved south to the vicinity of LES FRESNES, where it was surrounded by the Germans. They fought in position until they were almost out of ammunition, at which time elements fought their way out and returned to a position north of the river. During the afternoon the relief of the 3rd Battalion was attempted by sending a detachment of tanks across the river at le MOULIN L'ÉVEQUE. While a platoon from Company G and a detachment of Engineers from Company A, 121st Engineers successfully removed the minefields from the bridge, the attack was repulsed by German SP guns on the south of the river. Late in the afternoon, after a heavy artillery preparation, the 1st Battalion renewed its attack, which was again repulsed. The 116th Infantry, at dark, forced a crossing.

2. Advance from Elle River to defensive position.

At 0600 hours, 13 June 1944, 3rd Battalion recrossed the Elle River against light opposition consisting mostly of artillery and mortar fire. They advanced to position northwest of GONVALES and were attached to the 116th Infantry. The 1st Battalion remained in a defensive position and the 2nd Battalion moved to the defensive line north of river previously held by 3rd Battalion. The Regiment less the 3rd Battalion went into division reserve. This position was maintained until the afternoon of 10 June 44 when the 2nd Battalion moved against a strong point of enemy resistance 300 yards north of