

**WILBER KAHLE WWII
ENLISTMENT & TRAINING**

This section is a continuation, Part B, to the Kahle Genealogy Report Dated August 9, 2013. The separation was created due to large file size.

WILBER (BUD) KAHLE IN WORLD WAR II



The following story of the 137th Regiment makes frequent reference to military organizations which can be confusing when trying to interpret the size of a particular action. The following chart may be helpful for reference in understanding and appreciating the story.

<u>Unit Name</u>	<u>Unit Size, Men</u>	<u>Bud Kahle's Unit</u>
Division	10,000-15,000 Including 3 infantry Regiments	35th Division
Regiment	about 3000 Including 3 Infantry Battalions	137 th Regiment
Battalion	about 500 Including 3 Infantry Co.'s	1 st Battalion
Company	about 150 Including 3-4 Platoons	Company "B"
Platoon	30-40	2 nd Platoon

Note that the 137th Regiment's three infantry battalions. The Company designation within the Regiment is unique, e.g. there was only one Infantry Company "B", e.g. Bud Kahle's Company within the Regiment. Companies A, B, C and D were in the 1st Battalion of the 137th Regiment.

To facilitate following Bud Kahle's movement, **Company B** and **1st Battalion** have been highlighted in color throughout the text.

The story of the 137th Regiment has been compiled from several excellent sources. Some of the text is written in either first or third person. The first person passages were retained as is to preserve much of the personal observation aspects of the actions. Further, in an attempt to relieve the text of detail which did not contribute to the story or which referred to action of units other than Bud Kahle's, some of the original text was edited out. I have the original book of the 137th Regiment if anyone would like to borrow it.

The narrative is focused on the actions of the 137th Regiment. The Regiment's movements during the campaign following Bud Kahle's arrival are traced by a series of marked maps. The maps and their notations are arranged to amplify and clarify the nearby text. The reader's periodic reference to the overall map will help keep the geography in focus. Since the narrative is so focused on the 137th Regiment's progress, the reader may wonder what was going on in adjacent areas. It may sound at times like the Regiment is fighting the war by itself. In fact there were Regiments on either side, with Divisions aligned to provide a continuous front. If the reader would enjoy a broader view of the fronts and participating units there are many books available to present that context.

Acknowledgements:

Combat History of the 137th Infantry Regiment, World War II, Army & Navy Publishing Co. 1946

History of the Santa Fe Division (history of the 137th Regiment),
<http://www.137thinfantry.org/history.htm>

The 35th Infantry Division in World War II, <http://www.35thinfdivassoc.com/index.shtml>

Attack! The Story of the 35th Infantry Division, a booklet covering the history of the 35th Division published by the Start & Stripes in Paris 1944-1945.
http://www.lonesentry.com/gi_stories_booklets/35thinfantry/index.html



INDUCTION AND TRAINING:

Wilber (Bud) L. Kahle was inducted into the Army on February 19, 1944 at Jefferson Barracks, MO. About three weeks later he transferred to the Infantry Replacement Training Center at Camp Roberts, California. There, he completed seventeen weeks of training, exiting as a Private, Rifleman, in the 77th Infantry (temporary placement with this Division prior to final assignment in the war zone). At the time of his training completion on July 8, the Allied invasion of Europe had already been underway for a month.



137th Regiment Pocket Patch

SHIPPING OUT:

Bud departed for Europe on 12 August 1944, arriving for assignment on 22 August. He was assigned to the 2nd platoon, **Company B**, **1st Battalion**, 137th Regiment, and 35th Division. This Division, which had been stationed in England, was transported to the Normandy Beach area several weeks earlier. Bud Kahle, along with many other new arrivals, would serve as Infantry replacements to offset the expected battle casualties.

Bud's actual movements in arriving at his Division are not known. It is assumed that Bud would have been transported to the UK on a troop carrier. There, organization and transshipment to the war zone would be arranged. Like most, Bud probably boarded at one of the southern English ports, arriving in the Normandy beach area in mid-September, 1944. The beach landing area was reasonably secure by that time, but still presented danger of mines, bad weather and German air attacks. . Alternate landing at the ports of Cherbourg, France or Antwerp, Belgium was not possible since these ports had not yet been fully liberated.

The D-Day landings at Normandy had occurred on June 6, 1944. The unit which Bud was to join, the 137th Regiment, had landed in Normandy on July 6 and joined the bloody battles in the hedgerows in front of the town of St. Lo. The Allies broke out of the Normandy peninsula in early August and fought their way across much of France. The 137th Regiment captured Orleans

on August 6, Sens (south of Paris) on August 24 and crossed the Moselle River south of Nancy by September 12. The German resistance increased greatly as their forces were compressed toward Germany. The fighting continued town by town as his unit moved northwest towards Nancy, France.

The following map shows the path taken by the 137th Regiment from England to their location near Nancy on October 1, 1944 --- the time when Bud Kahle would have caught up with the unit.



Invasion

Path of the 137th Regiment from England to Nancy, France

To take Nancy, the Meurthe and Moselle Rivers south of the city first had to be controlled. The 137th drove from Houdelmont and Thuillery to reach high ground west of the Moselle. A small group from Co. F, 137th Regiment, crossed the river next day. They were given up for lost, however, when the remainder of the battalion was forced to abandon a crossing. Although elements of the 3rd Battalion forded the river further south, they were pinned down until late afternoon. In a coordinated attack by the entire regiment and the 1st and 3rd Battalions, each put two companies across in assault boats. The attack developed in fury during the night but 1st Battalion had cleared all Nazis by morning.

Frantic Germans reeled and fell back. By Sept. 16 most of the division's armor and infantry not only had crossed the Meurthe, the Le Sanon River and the Rhine-Marne Canal. The task force chased Nazis from Mazerulles next day, cutting the main supply route and highway from the east and clearing the approaches to Nancy. The Nazis were too groggy to put up a fight for Nancy. The task force rolled into the city without opposition and was greeted joyfully by grateful Frenchmen.

In the thick Champenoux Forest south of the Nancy-Saarbrücken highway were stubborn Nazi concentrations which had to be erased. The 137th Regiment attacked across open ground Sept. 20. The Germans, however, had an ideal defensive position from which they fought grimly and

held. Two days later, impatient with delay, the G.I.'s mounted tanks, rode to the edge of the woods, and then jumped off to eliminate the Germans in a bloody hand-to-hand fight. Nazis fled to their strongholds in Gremecey and the Chateau Salins Forest. The Germans reorganized and counter-attacked on Sept. 16 along the Chambrey-Pettoncourt highway. This move threatened to encircle the 3rd Battalion with tanks and infantry. For three days the fight see-sawed viciously, but the Nazis were thrown back with heavy losses. The 137th Regiment then attacked, cleared the Bois de Chambrey and took shell-battered Chambrey on Sept. 31.

JOINING THE FIGHT IN EUROPE



35th Division Shoulder Patch

Oct 1-2: Chambrey, Bois de Chambrey

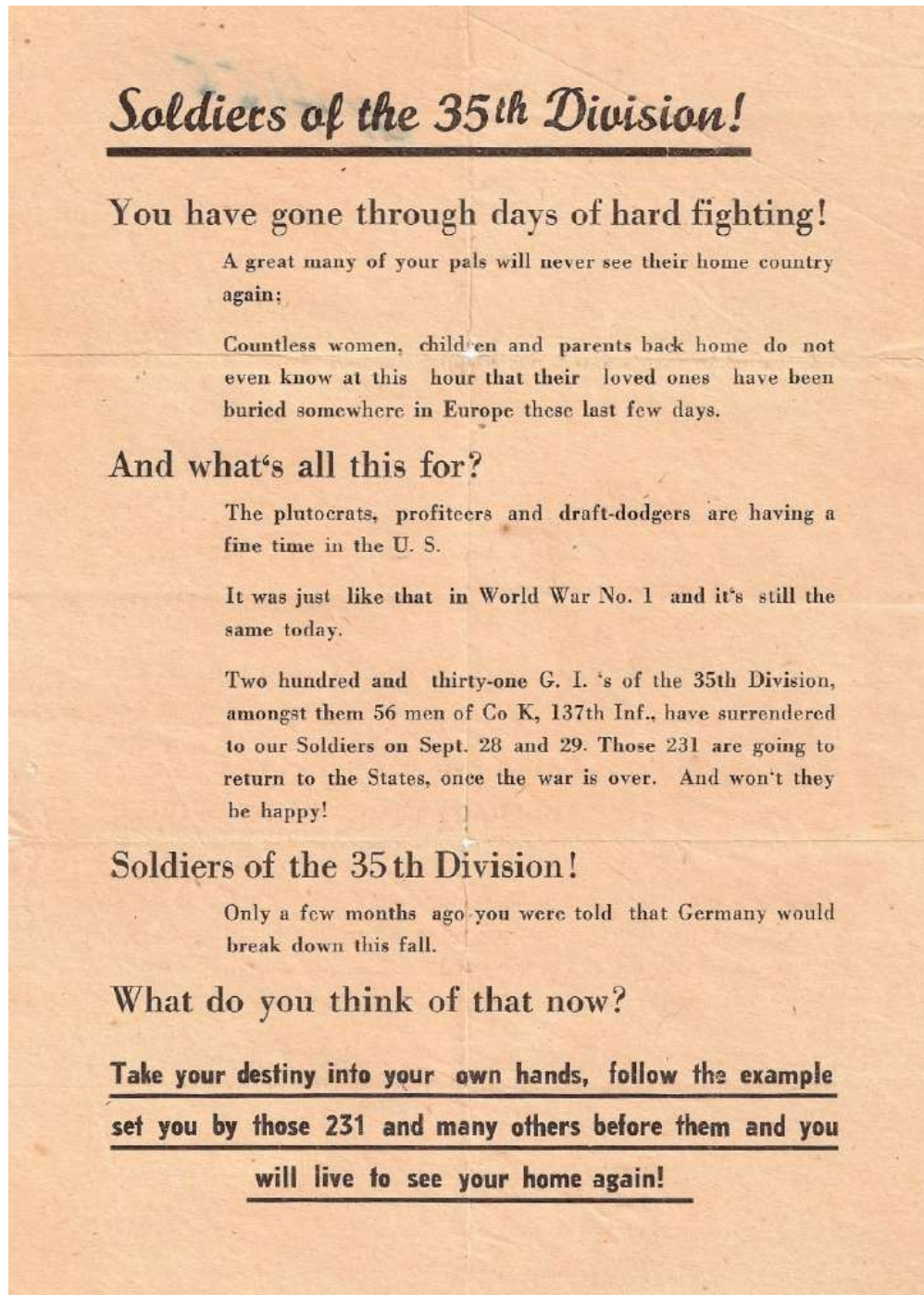
In late September the 35th Division was holding the Gremecey Forest, thus safeguarding the advance of the 3rd Army. The ferocity of the combat of the preceding week was evidenced by the fact that after the battle ended on October 1st, the 1st Battalion of the 137th Regiment, Bud Kahle's unit, had to be pulled out of the line to rest and refit as only 494 of 900 men were reported fit for action.



Injured Yanks from the Gremecy Forest Fighting

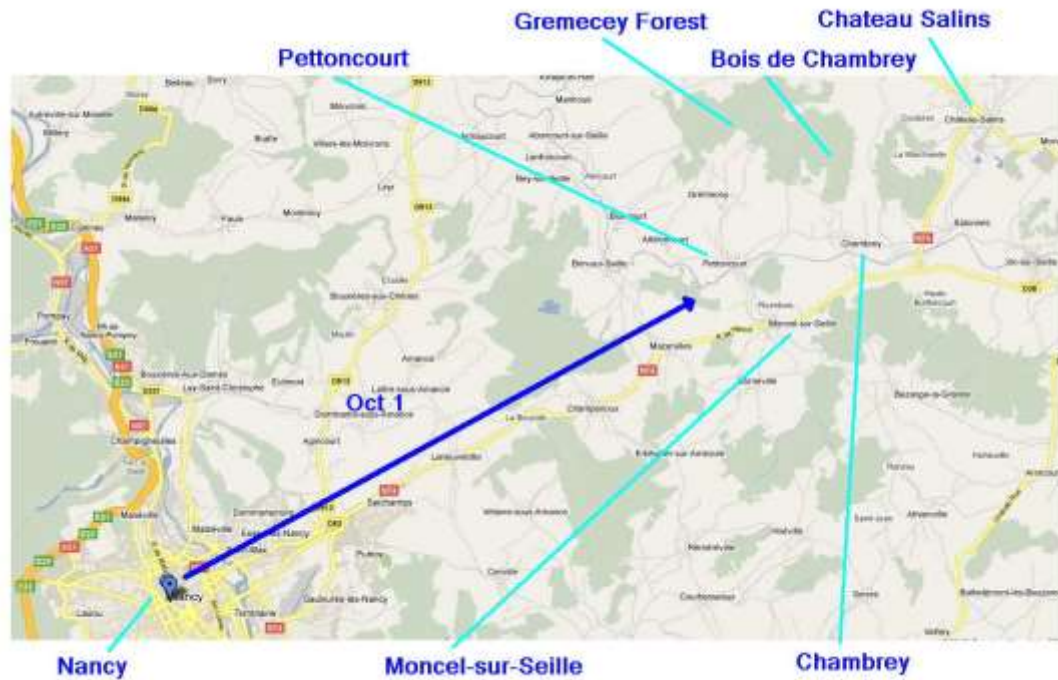
By October 1st, the 137th Regiment is found making a solid stand in its first assignment in a defensive position. The Regiment drew the commendation and praise of General George S. Patton and Major General Eddy, Corps Commander, as they observed the Regiment's performance. They had thrown back everything the Germans could hurl at them in the enemy's last desperate effort to stop the Allied forces.

The Germans also used loud speakers and propaganda to inhibit progress of the Allies. The following flyer was retrieved from the battle front:



On the morning of October 1 the 137th Infantry was opposed by strong German forces from a point midway between Pettoncourt and Chambrey, both located on the Seille River, northward to the edge of the Gremecey Forest. See following map.

WILBER KAHLE WWII OFF TO WAR



Position of the 137th Regiment on Oct. 1, 1944 following advance from Nancy

The 137th Infantry attacked that morning with a mission of re-establishing its lines and, in addition, to take the town of Chambrey. Chambrey remained an enemy strong point in spite of repeated air strikes and artillery pounding. Moving over open terrain in the vicinity of Merlinsole, a short distance north-west of Chambrey, the Division received many casualties from enemy artillery, but nonetheless pushed through to the battle line between Chambrey and Bois de (forest of) Chambrey. The 137th Infantry advanced to the east and by mid-afternoon was at the southwest edge of Bois de Chambrey. A concerted attack was launched from the south to clear the Bois de Chambrey of the enemy and to re-establish the defensive position on the east edge of the woods. Elements of the Division also advanced to the east and in early evening were fighting in the streets of Chambrey. They captured the town by late evening, taking 25 German prisoners.

Most of the enemy withdrew about a thousand yards to the east and northeast of Chambrey. Believing an attempt would be made to recapture Chambrey, General Sebree ordered that the town be held at all costs. All of the 1st Battalion anti-tank guns were moved to the Chambrey area, and roadblocks were established on all routes leading into the town.

Meanwhile, tanks from the 737th Tank Battalion were employed to support the Division's attack on the woods. The mission of the tanks was to pin down the enemy in the woods as infantry advanced north. By late evening the Division attained its objective along the eastern edge of Bois de Chambrey, and had established a combat outpost between the Bois de Chambrey and the town of Chambrey.

Casualties in the Regiment for October 1 were six killed, 28 wounded, and five missing. There were 37 enemy prisoners taken. These German soldiers had been left to defend Chambrey to the last man. Surprisingly, they had anticipated the American attempt to capture the town on that morning, even as to details of the attack.

On October 2 with the Germans withdrawing into the woods toward Chateau Salins, it was believed their next strong point in that direction would be "Hill 300," the high ground south of Coutures.



The 1st and 2nd Battalions were alerted for any possible enemy movement but, during most of the day of October 2, there was no enemy action to our front. In the evening of the next day the Air Force attacked German positions in the woods east and north of Chambrey, with eight bombers strafing the area. There was believed to be an entire German regiment in that vicinity.

Oct 4-7. Move to Reserve Area. Attiloncourt

On October 3rd 1944, relief of the 137th Regiment began. The enemy continued to shell the Division defensive area intermittently during Regiment's move on October 3, 4 and 5 through the area of Pettoncourt and Gremercey. The Regiment had moved from the area of Chambrey to a rear assembly area at Attiloncourt shortly before midnight on October 5th. Rain which had been threatening for several days began to fall during the morning and continued through the day. On October 5th, adjacent units reported shelling of heavy caliber, presumably from German railway guns. The Germans resorted to the use of a public address system to speak across the lines to our troops and later shot propaganda leaflets into our area.

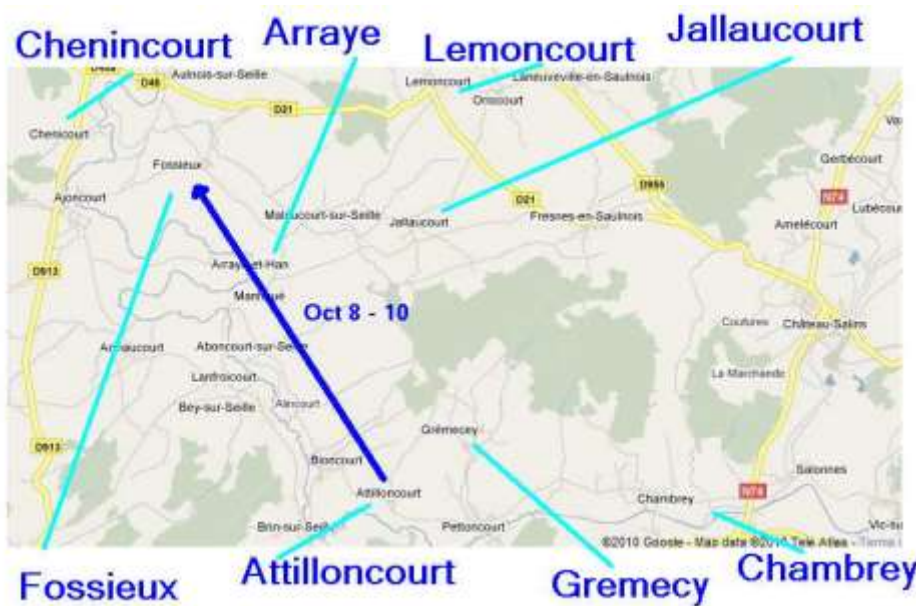
**WILBER KAHLE WWII
OFF TO WAR**

Regiment casualties for the 137th on October 3rd through the 5th included: eight men wounded and two missing and four men killed. Only two prisoners were taken.

On October 6 and 7 the 137th Regiment remained in Division reserve at Attiloncourt. Scattered enemy artillery fire continued. German planes were reported over the area in small numbers as the weather began to clear.

BATTLE FOR FOSSIEUX Oct 8 -10 **Battle for Fossieux (primarily 3rd Battalion)**

The 3rd Battalion moved out on the morning of October 8, driving toward Fossieux, Chenicourt and Malaucourt from the south. By late morning the troops were at the edge of Fossieux and located east of Arraye-et-Han above the Seille River. Shortly afterward, our forces had cut the Fossieux-Ajoncourt. One of the Companies was inside the town of Fossieux. By noon, our forces had taken over one hundred prisoners. Later, the Battalion forces continued mopping up in Fossieux with the assistance of our tanks. Others troops continued to clean out the area between the Rau d'Osson and Seille River.



Attack on Fossieux Oct 8-10

In taking its objective the 3rd Battalion suffered forty-two casualties. This included six killed, 35 wounded and 14 missing. In comparison, the Germans suffered far more heavily. The enemy lost 127 men in prisoners captured.

Although driven from Fossieux, the Germans remained at Chenicourt, Aulnois, Lemoncourt, and Jallaucourt. On the morning of October 9 they launched a counterattack with tanks and infantry, and re-entered Fossieux from the north. By mid-afternoon three of the German tanks had been knocked out, but five remained in the town and seven others had moved to the northeast across the Rau d'Osson.

The situation was not relieved until the following morning, when our troops again drove the Germans from the main part of the town. By noon, the enemy was holding out only in the north-east corner of Fossieux; one enemy tank remained in position to the northeast of the town. By evening, Fossieux was again cleared of Germans, and bridges on roads leading north and northwest of the town were reported to have been blown by our Engineers.

During the German counterattack and the recapture of Fossieux our 3rd Battalion lost 67 men. On October 9, four were killed, ten wounded, and eight missing. On October 10 there were eight killed, 23 wounded, and 14 missing. In retaking the town 45 were prisoners were captured.

Oct 10-14 The 137th Regiment Moves to Division Reserve

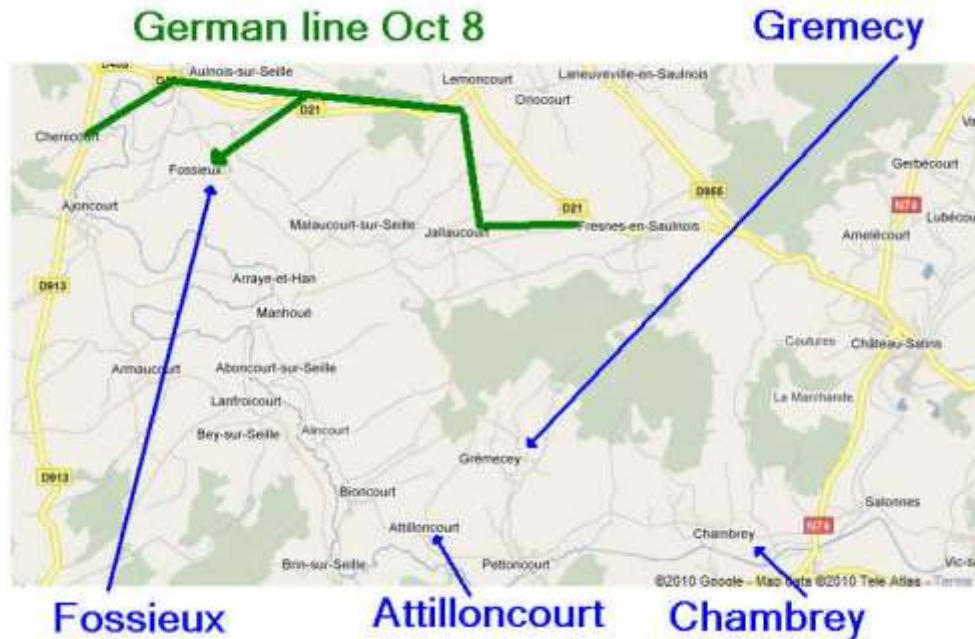
The 1st Battalion (137th Div.) remained in Division reserve at Attiloncourt during the preceding attack on Fossieux. Intermittent shelling was received in the area with little damage. Early on the morning of October 10 Attiloncourt area received four rounds of heavy artillery. Shell fragments recovered were over two inches wide by one and one-half inches thick and up to fourteen inches long, and indicated that the shells were from 280mm railway guns.

On October 11 our forces held Fossieux, but were under heavy artillery and mortar fire during the day. There were four men wounded on October 11, and six Germans were taken prisoner.

The 137th Regiment remained in Division reserve until October 15. During this period the 35th Division continued its defense of the sector. Despite overcast skies and intermittent showers during the period, American aircraft remained active, bombing and strafing the woods west of Lemoncourt on the 12th, 13th, and 14th of October. To the north and east, the rail junction of Benestroff was hit, and a railroad gun believed blown up west of Hansur-Nied. The only casualties in the 137th Regiment during this period occurred on October 13, when one man was killed and one wounded.

MOVE BACK INTO LINE Oct 15 -Nov 6

On October 15 the 137th Infantry relieved the 134th in the left regimental sector of the Division area. The 1st Battalion moved its Command Post to the vicinity of Han, and the 2nd Battalion CP was moved to near Rhin de Bois. The 3rd Battalion, still at Aboncourt, remained at that location in regimental reserve.



On Oct 15 the 137th Division Moved from Attiloncourt North to Front Line at Fossieux

From October 16 until the end of the month the 137th Infantry remained in a defensive status, with the regimental sector divided into two portions. The left portion extended from the Seille River east to Fossieux, then southeast along the ridge between Maluaucourt and Manhoué to the west tip of the Jallaucourt Woods. The 1st Battalion occupied this left portion of the sector. The right portion of the sector was occupied by the 2nd Battalion, and was bounded by the northern edge of the Jallaucourt Woods and the Gremecy Forest to a point south of Fresnes.

With the assistance of the 60th Engineer Battalion, elaborate defense installations were established along our lines, with minefields, booby traps, concertina fencing, and trip flares used extensively. These extended east from the junction of the Seille River and Ruisseau d'Osson. The Ruisseau d'Osson was itself a tank obstacle and added to the strength of the defense. From this ditch east to the Aulnois-Ajoncourt road was laid a 500-yard concertina fence, with anti-personnel mines and trip flares along its length, and a hasty anti-tank minefield behind it.

From the Aulnois road east, 1,600 yards of concertina fence were laid to Fossieux, with anti-tank and anti-personnel mines and trip flares to its front. Farther to the front, four

bridges had been blown, blocking all roads leading into Fossieux and Ajoncourt from the north. Around Fossieux about 600 anti-tank mines were laid.

From Fossieux southeast, the Engineers laid 4,750 yards of single concertina, to the edge of the woods. The remainder of our line, extending along the edge of the woods, was heavily booby-trapped, with anti-tank minefields laid on all routes into the woods. Three triple and three double concertina installations were laid behind these installations, to complete an almost unbroken line through the forest.

The Regiment's defensive positions were manned from the Seille River to the Fossieux area, in the Fossieux area and on the right to the Jallaucourt Woods.

The situation called for diligent patrolling activity to our front, and a definite patrolling policy was set down. This policy specified that two patrols would be sent out each night by each front-line battalion, with the Battalion Commander selecting his own patrolling missions when not given a definite assignment from higher, headquarters.

On October 17 the 137th Infantry completed its 100th day of combat. In that 100 days the Regiment had pushed almost completely across France, from Omaha Beach through the battle of St. Lo and the Mortain Forest, the capture of Orleans and the liberation of Sens, the crossings of the Moselle and the Meurthe Rivers, and the battle of the Champenoux Forest. The Regiment concluded this advance with its present defensive stand in the bend of the Seille River.

During these 100 days the Regiment had suffered 2,353 casualties. Of these, 441 had been killed, 1,680 wounded, and 232 missing in action. Many of these wounded had already been returned to duty with their organization, and with ample replacements received, the strength of the Regiment stood at 155 officers and 3,128 enlisted men, exceeding that of July 10 when the 137th Infantry first went into position above St. Lo. Of the original 156 officers who had departed from Bodmin and Newquay with the Regiment, 96 were still with the organization.

During the period of October 18, 19, and 20, the 137th Infantry encountered very little enemy action.

Oct 20: Purposeful Flooding of Seille River

The 137th Infantry had been making preparations for possible isolation from the Division Command Post during the week to follow. The separation was expected due to the Allied decision to flood the Seille River along the front to create logistical problems for the enemy. Sixteen miles east of our area, near Dieuze, was the Etang- da Lindre, a large artificial lake formed by the damming of the Seille River at Lindre Basse. By blowing out the earth dam there, the Seille Valley could be flooded through German-held Sallonges, on through Chambrey and circling our own area including Alincourt, Aboncourt, Manhoue, and Ajoncourt, and beyond into German territory again to the north.

WILBER KAHLE WWII BATTLE FOR FOSSIEUX



Plan to Bomb Dam at Linde-Basse Lake to Flood the Seille River Downstream (to west, then north) to Slow German Reinforcement to the West in the American-held Areas of Chambrey, Gremecey and Fossieux

The Germans controlled the lake and the dam, in a position to release the impounded water at any time. The flooding of the valley, coordinated with an enemy attack of sufficient force, might have resulted in the trapping of considerable American troops in the bend of the river. However, at the present time the enemy was known to be incapable of attacking in such force in this sector, and an immediate inundation of the area would be to their disadvantage, bogging them down at their strong points at Dieuze, Marsal, and Vic-sur-Seille, in addition to removing the possibility of a future flood at a time of their own selection.

It was planned that our Air Force bomb the dam, and although engineering estimates indicated that our bridges at Brin and Manhoue could still be used at the highest stage of the flood, precautions were taken by the Regiment in case the flood waters did reach a stage that would cut off our forces from the west side of the river. A four-day supply of rations was brought in, and the Regiment drew extra gasoline and ammunition. Additional Engineer supplies were dumped on the east side of the river. The Regimental Surgeon drew extra medical supplies, and one collecting company was established on each side of the river. Amphibious 21/2-ton "Ducks" and boats were made available for use in crossing the swollen river.



American Pontoon Bridge

Shortly after noon on October 20, a formation of fighter-bombers flew east above the Seille River to the huge reservoir where they carried out their bombing mission, scoring two direct hits on the dam. Two bomber squadrons returned to the site to carry out further demolition of the dam. A 50-foot gap was blasted in the western end of the dam, releasing the impounded water in sufficient force to flood the town of Dieuze. Beyond Dieuze the flood began to spread out over the surrounding lowlands and moved west toward Marsal. It was expected that no noticeable raise in water level would affect our area until the following day.

The enemy's artillery activity began early on the morning of the October 20th. Two direct hits were scored on the Battalion Command Post, disrupting communications but resulting in no casualties. The 1st Battalion reported four rounds in the vicinity of their Command Post. The Regiment had no casualties on October 18 or 19. On October 20, however, one man was killed, two wounded by artillery fire and three men missing in action.

The flood moved down the Seille Valley as far as Vic-sur-Seille on October 21st, slowing down considerably as the waters backed up into the many tributaries of the river. The floodwaters reached Pettoncourt on the following day and moved slowly on past Attiloncourt and Brin.

Following a week of rain, the skies began to clear on October 22nd. The dirt roads in the sector had already been churned into a mass of deep mud, and water in foxholes and slit trenches added to the discomfort of the troops. The 35th Division front remained

comparatively quiet on October 22nd during which the 1st Battalion moved to regimental reserve

The Seille River flood reached its highest stage in our sector late on October 22nd. The bridges at Brin and Manhoue were not affected by the high water, and normal traffic across the Seille River continued. During the morning of October 23 the river began to fall at Pettoncourt, as the flood crest began to move north into German territory on its way to empty into the Moselle River at Metz.

Few prisoners were being taken by any of the units along the Corps front. Correcting that shortfall became a high priority among our nightly patrols. Our patrols again ranged far behind the enemy lines, but were still unsuccessful in their attempts to capture prisoners. Enemy patrols were also active.



During the early morning of October 27 there was increased activity of horse-drawn wagons and carts in the Juree Woods, in Jallaucourt and Malaucourt, and on the road between. Repeated reports of horse carts along the German lines during the past few nights indicated that this was the principal means of transportation being used by the Germans in this sector.

In the afternoon of October 30, our forces captured an enemy prisoner, from the vicinity of Aulnois. The German told of a new anti-tank gun called the "Pupchen" in Aulnois. This was described as a compact and easily-handled weapon with a barrel about a meter long, effective against tanks at two hundred meters, and firing a shell similar to a mortar. It could also be used as an anti-personnel weapon with an effective range of seven meters.

The water level of the Seille continued to fall, and the river was back within its banks as far north as Ajoncourt.

Nov 1-6: Maintain Defensive Position in Jallaucourt/Chambrey Area

November 1st found the 137th Infantry in its sixth week in a defensive status, as XII Corps continued its mission of defending that portion of the Third Army front from Cheminot, ten miles south of Metz, to the Marne-Rhine Canal near Xunes, 20 miles east of Nancy. The 137th Regiment was in position from Jallaucourt to point near Chambrey. The 1st Battalion remained in position, occupying the Jallaucourt Woods and the Gremecey Forest to a point south of Fresnes.

The Germans were feeling the force of our own artillery during the day. Upon request of our 1st Battalion, the Field Artillery Battalion fired into Jallaucourt with 155mm fuse delay shells. Buildings were wrecked, fires were started, and an ammunition dump was believed hit. Late in the evening one of our men was wounded by a booby trap when returning from repairing an anti-personnel minefield. This injury brought the total casualties for November 1 to two killed and five wounded. These were the Regiment's first men killed since October 20.

On the morning of November 2 patrols returned with reports of much activity near Fresnes, and across the creek from Fossieux.

On November 3, patrols returned from missions of inspecting bridge sites to our front, near Aulnois, Fossieux, Malaucourt, and Jallaucourt. Five bridges were examined for possibility of use by tanks and trucks. Of these, one was reported as possibly strong enough to hold a 2-ton truck, and it was believed that the bridge northeast of Fossieux, constructed of reinforced concrete with ten-inch I-beams, could be repaired sufficiently to hold tanks. All other bridges had been damaged beyond use. Showers fell intermittently during the day, and all was quiet to our front until after dark, when enemy patrols became active.

The patrols sent out on the night of November 5th were very successful. German troops in Jallaucourt were deprived of their nightly hot meal when a strong patrol from Company C made their way to the Malaucourt-Jallaucourt road and there ambushed a horse-drawn kitchen wagon coming from Fresnes. One prisoner was taken; he reported that his company was receiving one hot meal each night, eating concentrated food during the day. The prisoner revealed that his company consisted of only 80, commanded by a twenty-year-old lieutenant. He reported that the morale of the troops, including non-commissioned officers, was very poor.

Rains swelled the Seille River to flood stage, and for the second time in two weeks the valley was inundated as far as Ajoncourt.

Elsewhere on the Western Front, the clearing of the Scheldt Estuary in Belgium was almost completed. This would make available to the Allies the great port of Antwerp. In

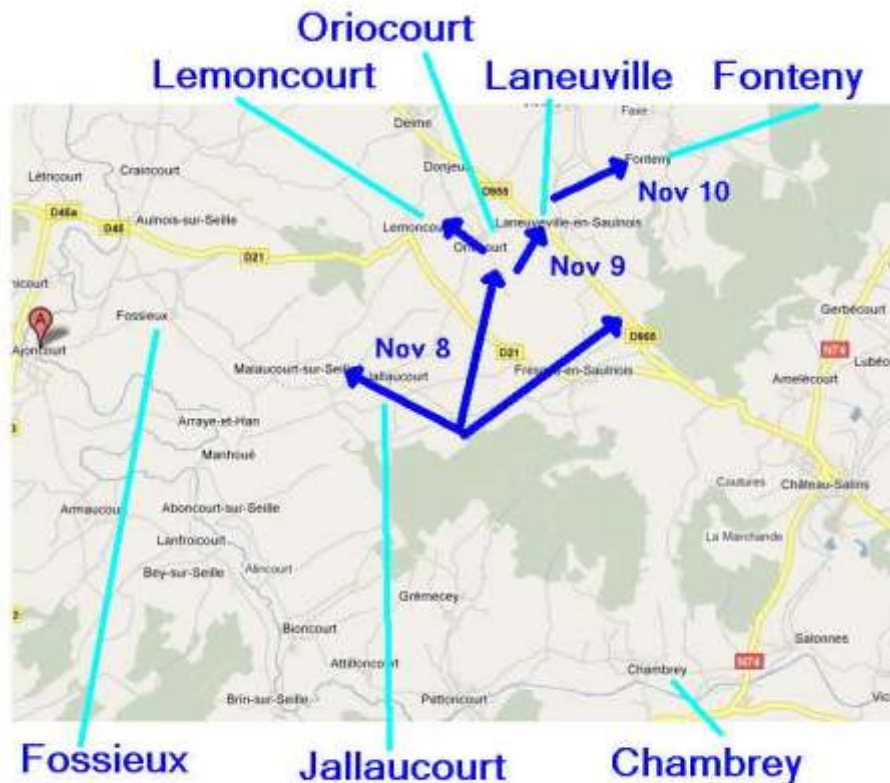
Holland, nearly all of the German Fifteenth Army had been driven back across the Maas River, and the Allies held all but one of the bridges across that river.

ORGANIZE FOR ATTACK Nov 7 – 10

Organize for Attack on Jallaucourt, Orioville, Laneuville, Juree Woods, Forteny

After its short period of comparative inactivity, the Third Army prepared to resume the offensive in the Metz-Nancy area, to encircle the German fortress city of Metz, and to continue the drive on the Siegfried Line. On the afternoon of November 7, the 137th Infantry was ordered to attack. The plan called for continuous, close fighter-bomber support. As further support, five additional artillery battalions were made available to the 35th Division for the operation.

The initial mission of the 137th Infantry was to attack to the north and northeast, secure a bridgehead across the Rau d'Osson, and seize the first objective, five miles to the northeast of our present position, cutting the main highway between Chateau-Salins and Metz in the vicinity of Laneuveville.



137th Regiment Attacks to Northeast toward Laneuveille

The Regiment attacked on the morning of November 8 following a heavy artillery barrage of enemy lines. On the right, the 1st Battalion attacked Jallaucourt, and by first light had one platoon in the town. With two platoons were pinned down west of the town by heavy enemy fire, Company A was sent into the fight for the shell-wrecked village. The 1st Battalion was also receiving fire from German positions in the Juree Woods, hampering operations to the east of Jallaucourt.

After being held up part of the morning by enemy machine gun fire on the site, the Engineers completed a bridge south of Jallaucourt. Our armored support began to cross the bridge, losing one tank just after it had cleared the bridge. Shortly after noon eight tanks were moving in on Jallaucourt, with **Company B** of the **1st Battalion** attacking from the south-east. By noon the **1st Battalion** had two full companies in the town, and heavy fighting was in progress. Steady rain set in shortly after noon, and our air support was called off during the afternoon.

By mid-afternoon the enemy had been cleared from all but the north edge of Jallaucourt. By evening, the **1st Battalion** was in possession of Jallaucourt, but the Germans were still battling between the town and the Juree Woods, still occupying the latter.

A second bridge south of Malaucourt was completed by the Engineers. In the evening, the Battalion forces crossed the river on tanks and moved into the town. Direct artillery fire was received which knocked out our lead tank. The remaining tanks fanned out and our troops dismounted and proceeded on foot. At this time, orders were received from the Division Commander to hold up the attack, consolidate positions, outpost security and to prepare to attack early the following morning.

Fighting continued in the Juree Woods, however, until midnight. Company A finally cleared the enemy from the woods, and then prepared to resume the attack from that point the following morning. On this first day of the new offensive, the 137th Infantry took 134 prisoners. The Regiment's casualties on the same day were six killed and 76 wounded.

The Regiment resumed the attack early on November 9th, with the **1st Battalion** striking toward Oriocourt, two miles northeast of Jallaucourt. Moderate resistance was encountered 150 yards inside the woods, but the **1st Battalion** advanced steadily during the morning, and by afternoon had cleared the woods. The Battalion then reorganized and moved toward Lemoncourt.



Lemoncourt after Capture by G.I.'s

The 1st Battalion, in the meantime, was making steady progress to the northeast, and by afternoon had captured Oriocourt, taking 150 prisoners and a battery of enemy field artillery. The 1st Battalion then drove eastward toward Laneuveville, the initial regimental objective. The German withdrawal was becoming more and more hurried, and as our forces overran one enemy position after another, the prisoner total mounted rapidly. The Germans were surrendering in large groups, and during the afternoon it became evident that this would be the largest number of prisoners yet taken in a single day by the 137th Infantry.

To the south of Deime, the 1st Battalion had crossed the Metz-Chateau Salins railroad and highway. By dark they had seized Laneuveville and then occupied the high ground to the east of the town. This placed the 137th Regiment on its initial objective after only two days of fighting.

Prisoners taken by the Regiment during the day reached the record-breaking total of 445. Morale was very low among a large number of those taken. Many of them, wet and shivering from the cold rain which fell intermittently during the day, were generous in divulging information on their own forces. Our casualties were five killed, 24 wounded, and four missing in action.

The Regiment attacked early on November 10th, with the 1st Battalion jumping off from the high ground east of Laneuveville toward Fonteny, two kilometers to the northeast. The 1st Battalion moved to the ridge overlooking Fonteny without opposition, then ran into heavy small arms fire from the tip of the Chateau-Salins Forest. The Germans also

WILBER KAHLE WWII ATTACK TO NORTHEAST

had tanks in the vicinity, with two reported moving from Fonteny into the woods and four others just south of town.



Jallaucourt Church

The 1st Battalion was unable to take Fonteny during the day, and the Regiment was again ordered to hold up the attack. Extensive patrolling during the night was ordered.

125 prisoners were taken on November 10th. Casualties in the 137th Regiment during the day were 11 men killed, 34 wounded, and five missing.

RESUME ATTACK TO NORTHEAST Nov 11-15

137th Regiment Resumes Attack: Lanueville, Onron, Destry, Barronville

The attack was resumed on the morning of November 11. An early patrol from the 1st Battalion revealed that the Germans had not withdrawn from Fonteny during the night, but remained in considerable strength and were dug in on the high ground behind the town and in the woods to the southwest. The 1st Battalion again attacked the stronghold, but was held off until the afternoon. By evening, much of Fonteny had been cleared of the enemy.

WILBER KAHLE WWII ATTACK TO NORTHEAST



The Regiment again held up the attack for the night, and made ready to continue the following morning. On November 11th the Regiment lost seven killed, 67 wounded, and seven missing. A total of 43 German prisoners were taken during the day.

The 1st Battalion assembled at Laneuveville in regimental reserve on November 12.

3rd Battalion companies attacked at dawn to clear Fonteny of the enemy, and by late morning they were mopping up in the town. Three Mark V tanks, apparently in good shape, were captured. The Battalion moved on through the woods, then dashed to the east and seized the town of Oron. Our troops advanced on Oron with such speed that the Germans were unable to carry out planned demolition of the bridge across the Niad Francais Rau west of Oron. This highly important river crossing was captured undamaged. In Oron, 150 prisoners were captured --- members of a work battalion, mostly older men of decrepit appearance.

The 1st Battalion left Laneuveville and followed the 3rd into Chateau Brehain.

Our casualties on November 12 were 12 killed, 54 wounded and six missing. Including the members of the work battalion captured at Oron, a total of 179 prisoners were captured during the day.

On November 13 enemy resistance stiffened, as the 137th Infantry hit a strong defense line from the woods north of Villers-sur-Neid to Achain. Early in the morning, the 3rd Battalion attacked northeastward, while to the north the 2nd Battalion advanced on Villers-sur-Neid. Both received heavy artillery and mortar fire immediately after jumping off. After two hours' fighting, Company G pushed on into Villers, and by noon two companies were in the town. Street fighting was in progress until shortly after noon,

when our forces cleared the town of Germans. The 2nd Battalion then reorganized and continued the attack toward Marthille, a mile to the east, which they captured in early evening. After taking Marthille, the Battalion quickly moved on Destry, two miles northeast.

The 3rd Battalion, just outside of Brehain, ran into small arms fire from the hill to the east. However, while engaging the enemy with frontal fire, the Battalion slipped sufficient troops around the hill to get behind the German positions. The Yanks captured 25 Germans and forced the remainder to pull out. Moving northeast, the forward elements of the Battalion reached the crossroads midway between Marthille and Achain where the Battalion ran into strong German positions to the left of the highway. These positions were immediately attacked and taken, but the Battalion was then brought under fire from the high ground to the northeast. Again attacking, our forces dislodged the Germans from that point, putting the Battalion within two kilometers of Baronville. Here they held up until the following morning.

The 2nd Battalion, in their attempt to capture Destry, reached the ridge south of the town by evening, where they were stopped by heavy mortar and artillery fire. The 1st Battalion, still in reserve, moved from Chateau Brehain to Marthille by evening of November 13. This day was the coldest yet, and during the night snow fell over the entire sector.

Ninety-seven prisoners were taken during the day, bringing the total for the first six days of the campaign to 1,023. Our own casualties dropped on this day, with 30 men reported wounded and none killed or missing.

The 2nd and 3rd Battalions resumed the attack on the morning of November 14th. The 3rd, moving on Baronville from the southwest, encountered no opposition until later in the morning, when they were met by heavy machine gun fire on the ridge in front of the town. Mortar fire and direct artillery fire were received by the Battalion as they maneuvered to attack the stronghold. The Germans were defending the town stubbornly, with tanks and infantry, and held out from dug-in positions until late afternoon, despite repeated assaults by our troops. The Battalion finally broke through by evening, with house-to-house fighting again developing as the last resistance was cleared from the town.

Meanwhile, the 2nd Battalion had attacked Destry with tank support. Here again house-to-house fighting resulted, and the town was not fully occupied by our troops until late afternoon. Securing the town, the 2nd Battalion held up for the night but sent patrols to the front as far as the railroad two kilometers northeast, which was the Division objective.

Again, civilians were found to have remained in the besieged towns. The 3rd Battalion alone found two hundred civilians in their occupation of Baronville.

Casualties in the Regiment were two killed and 29 wounded on November 14th. There were 34 prisoners taken. Prisoners captured during the past two days gave the information that they were recently brought from the Polish front and placed in Marthille,

Baronville, and other points in this sector; that they had been given no orientation on the situation, only ordered to hold these towns at all cost.

On November 15 the 137th Infantry, nearing the Division objective, continued the attack for the eighth consecutive day. Both 2nd and 3rd Battalions moved to seize the Metz-Benestroff railway in their zone. Jumping off at 0900, the 2nd Battalion was the first to reach the railroad, and moved onto the objective at 1035. The 3rd Battalion, in their zone, had to clean out the Grand Bois, which they entered at 1000 and cleared by noon.

After moving onto the objective from the woods, the 3rd Battalion was given an additional mission of advancing, seizing and holding Hill 264, north of Etang DeMutche, and overlooking the railroad. The Battalion jumped off for its new objective at 1400, and at 1635 occupied the hill in the face of heavy artillery fire.

The 1st Battalion continued in regimental reserve, but was alerted to be prepared to relieve the 2nd Battalion upon receipt of the next attack order.

Twenty-eight prisoners were taken on November 15th, the smallest number yet captured in one day since the start of the present offensive. Our own casualties were one killed, 13 wounded, and 13 missing in action.

Nov 15-17: **Short Rest**

On November 15, after eight days of continuous fighting, the 137th Infantry gained a brief rest, remaining in its present position and awaiting further orders. Since November 8, the first day of the attack, the Regiment had advanced 25 kilometers, capturing 17 towns and taking well over 1,000 prisoners.

The enemy had left the area heavily mined, and although these were being cleared as quickly as possible. Some casualties resulted from this menace on November 16th.

The Regiment remained in place November 17. There was no letup in the cold weather, and the skies were overcast. A light snow fell late in the day. Two men were reported missing on this day, but none were reported killed or wounded. Only two enemy prisoners were taken.

ATTACK AGAIN Nov 18-23

The 1st and 3rd Battalions were ordered to attack on the following morning, November 18. The advance was to continue to the northeast, following generally to the north of the Morhange-Sarreguemines highway. The ultimate objective was the Saar River at a point south of Sarreguemines.

The 1st Battalion made a night march from Marthille; they moved through Baronville and then swung around the lake, Etang de Mutche. The 1st Battalion proceeded toward Harprich from the south. With very little resistance, the Battalion entered the town at 9:00 a.m. They were immediately subjected to artillery and mortar shelling. The Germans began laying down a terrific barrage along the road leading to Berig-Vinrange to harass any advance along that route. The Battalion moved on out of Harprich, however, and advanced on Berig-Vinrange, meeting the most stubborn resistance the Germans offered during that day. The enemy had considerable armor in the town, and they held strong positions on the high ground to the east.



WILBER KAHLE WWII ATTACK AGAIN

The attack was held up in the evening, but the Engineers worked on into the night removing mines and obstacles left by the retreating Germans. At Berig-Vintrange a massive roadblock at the south edge of town prevented the use of the main road into town.

Similar obstacles, though generally of less elaborate construction, were now being encountered blocking the way into every town, as the enemy resorted to every possible means to delay the Americans. The Germans were throwing everything available into these obstacles, including, log and stone structures, hay rakes and farm implements.

The 3rd Battalion had advanced rapidly during the day, seizing the town of Bening and by mid-afternoon had two companies in the village of Bistroff. The Battalion had moved swiftly across muddy terrain and surprised the enemy by this daring maneuver of operating far in advance of supporting weapons, which were road-bound because of the mud. The enemy's surprise was so complete that they were delayed in organizing a counterattacking force. By the time the Germans did counterattack, the 3rd Battalion had brought up ammunition and supplies to support their defense. Anti-tank mines, hand-carried more than three miles, were placed to cover German tank approaches into the Battalion's position.



The Germans had blown the bridge on the Bistroff-Berig Vintrange road, but shortly before midnight the Engineers moved up to repair the bridge and thus establish a supply route to the 3rd Battalion. Vehicles, however, did not reach the town of Bistroff until the following afternoon.

On October 18, three men of the 137th Infantry were killed and seven were wounded. Fifteen prisoners were taken.

WILBER KAHLE WWII ATTACK AGAIN

On the morning of November 19th the 3rd Battalion was counterattacked by enemy infantry and two tanks trying to get into Bistroff. The attack was repulsed after one German tank had been knocked out by mines. These mines, hand-carried and laid by the Mine Platoon of the Regimental Anti-tank Company only a few hours before, figured prominently in breaking up the attack.

Upon resumption of the American morning, the tanks of the 6th Armored Division passed through the 1st Battalion toward Bertring. They were met by heavy artillery and anti-tank fire, but advanced almost to Bertring, where they were held up by an anti-tank ditch along the forward slope of the ridge west of the town. Company A and [Company B](#) moved up at noon, crossed the ditch and attacked the town. The Germans resisted stubbornly, and held our infantry off until late afternoon, and then had to be cleared from the town from building to building. In the meantime, the tanks were still held up west of the ditch, their assistance in the assault hindered by the protection of the ridge between them and the town. Tank dozers were brought up to fill in the ditch sufficiently to allow the armor to cross, but one tank destroyer had been knocked out and burned by artillery in the meantime.

The 1st Battalion moved swiftly on Gros-Tenquin. They quickly cleaned out all enemy resistance and seized the high ground to the northeast.



The 3rd Battalion, after beating off the early counterattack by the Germans at Bistroff, followed through with a morning attack on Hill 315 to the northeast, taking a machine gun nest and 30 prisoners, several mortars, and a 20mm gun. The Battalion then remained in the positions already held for the rest of the day. The 3rd Battalion moved up to Gros-Tenquin during the night to relieve the 1st Battalion.

The Regiment again took a big haul of prisoners on November 19th, with a total of 208 captured during the day. Our casualties were one man killed, 27 wounded, and four missing.

At dawn on November 20 the 3rd Battalion moved out from Bistroff toward Freyhouse, situated four kilometers east beyond the north tip of the Freyhouse Woods. The Battalion

WILBER KAHLE WWII ATTACK AGAIN

moved east through the Meisenbruck Farm then swung wide to the left and reached the tip of the woods by noon. They then attacked Freyhouse, encountering stiff resistance and receiving tank fire from the town. Fighting for the town continued all afternoon. By dark we had two platoons in Freyhouse. The Germans were still holding out stubbornly, and the attack was halted for the night, with the two platoons remaining in the town.



In the meantime, the 2nd Battalion had jumped off on their morning attack on the Freyhouse Woods to their front. The Battalion received heavy fire as they jumped off. By late morning they had punched into the woods north of the Gros-Tenquin Hellimer highway. By noon they had cleared the woods in their zone. Emerging from the east edge of the woods, however, the Battalion was subjected to terrific fire from the high ground to the north and east. Holding a perfect observation post, the Germans brought deadly mortar, small arms, and direct artillery fire on our troops with every attempt to advance over the open terrain to the front. By dark the Battalion had made no appreciable gain, and the attack was stopped for the night.

On the November 20 attack, the Division suffered six officers wounded, the largest loss in a single day among officers since the Moselle River crossing. Casualties among enlisted men were four killed, 51 wounded, and six missing. Forty-two Germans were captured.

The 2nd Battalion resumed its attack toward Hellimer on November 21st. Again attempting to advance east along the Hellimer highway, they moved five hundred yards past the Franc Altroff road junction, when enemy small arms fire opened up. During the early morning they were subjected to heavy fire from Hellimer. Shortly after noon they were in a position to attack the town, but the first assault was thrown back by heavy machine gun and tank fire. The Battalion attacked again in the afternoon, but the Germans had five tanks in the northwest corner of the town holding up the approach, and it was almost late afternoon before any sizable force could get into the town. Infantry Companies led the way in the final assault, and bitter street fighting again developed as the Germans were cleared from the town house by house. Two enemy tanks were

knocked out in the fight, and another was abandoned in perfect condition as the Germans withdrew to Diffembach to the north-east.

The 3rd Battalion, with two platoons already in Freyhouse, resumed its attack on that town at dawn and after fighting most of the morning, cleared out the enemy and sent a force to the north in an attempt to capture Fremestroff. They moved north out of Freyhouse but, after going a short distance, were held up by a blown bridge. The infantry moved on across the creek in late afternoon, while the armor awaited the arrival of Engineers to repair the bridge. An hour later our troops were in Fremestroff, and the tanks had moved up and surrounded the town. However, darkness found the enemy still in the town, and our forces waited until the following morning to attempt to clear the last resistance.

Three men were killed on the 21st, and 55 were wounded. Thirty-eight Germans were captured.

Plans for November 22 called for the 6th Armored Division to send two task forces out from Hellimer, one north to Leyviller in conjunction with an attack on that town by the 1st Battalion, then east to St. Jean-Rohrbach, and the other northeast to Diffembach, and on to St. Jean-Rohrbach.



Fremestroff, France

On the morning of the 22nd, forces of the 3rd Battalion cleared Fremestroff early, and the 3rd Battalion moved on to Diffembach, where the Germans had withdrawn from Hellimer.

Meanwhile the 1st Battalion moved up from reserve and attacked Leyviller, four kilometers to the north of Hellimer. Coordinating with the tanks, Company A moved in on the town from the right while Company C advanced from the left. By 1100 Leyviller was partially surrounded by tanks and infantry, and at 1400 they took the town after hard fighting, with the Germans withdrawing to the north. The Battalion quickly turned the attack toward St. Jean, four kilometers to the east and formerly heavily-garrisoned by the

WILBER KAHLE WWII ATTACK AGAIN

Germans. Enemy tanks on the outskirts of St. Jean brought heavy fire on the doughboys, and SS troops were defending within the town. Fighting continued until after darkness, with the Battalion pushing the enemy from the town by early evening. Immediately the Germans began shelling the area and continued the barrage throughout the night.

The 2nd Battalion moved half the distance to Hilsprich, then was counterattacked in the afternoon by Germans from the Habst Woods north of the Hellimer-St. Jean highway. The enemy was stopped with severe losses from our combined machine gun and mortar fire, and the surviving Germans fled back into the woods.

On November 22, six men were killed, 17 wounded, and five missing in action in the Regiment. There were 58 prisoners captured, including members of the 36th-SS Division.

On the morning of November 23 all battalions attacked. The 2nd Battalion jumped off in the morning from the high ground midway between Diffembach and Hilsprich. They moved through the Machweld Woods and swung right, to the southwest of Hilsprich. The 1st Battalion moved out from St. Jean to approach Hilsprich from the northwest. The 3rd Battalion, then located at Leyviller, moved on the town of Altrippe. Another force attacked the Habst Woods...

The 1st Battalion encountered stiff resistance in its advance on Hilsprich, The town was well defended with heavy tanks and infantry, and surrounding high ground was bristling with dug-in enemy positions. Six hundred yards west of the town the 1st Battalion ran into terrific fire from the German positions and, just afterwards, heavy tanks were discovered operating in the town. The Battalion Commander requested that all artillery possible be thrown into the town. The Germans threw back the first attempt to enter the town, and only after hard fighting and heavy casualties were our forces able to get into the stronghold.



German Assault Gun Knocked Out at Hillmer, France

The main enemy force withdrew to the east. Shortly before dusk, however, they came back into Hilsprich with tanks and inflicted further losses on troops there. Breaking into

the town at both ends of the Main Street, the enemy tanks worked toward the center of town, firing point-blank on buildings and troops. Company C lost heavily, with the

Company Commander, three company officers and 29 others missing. The remaining troops withdrew to St. Jean.

The Hilsprich engagement was a costly one to the 1st Battalion, as they lost four men killed, 26 wounded, and 39 missing during the attack and the enemy counterattack that followed. Total casualties in the Regiment were ten killed, 76 wounded, and 40 missing.

CONSOLIDATION AFTER GAINS Nov 24-30

On November 24 the 1st Battalion withdrew to St. Jean for reorganization. On the morning of November 25th the Germans continued their relentless shelling of the 3rd Battalion area. During the morning they subjected Leyviller to a terrific bombardment, with the shelling reaching its height shortly before noon when the Germans poured in 168 rounds in fourteen minutes.

On November 26th and 27th the 137th Infantry remained in place and continued patrolling and strengthening defenses in its area. The skies cleared on November 26th for the first time in over a week. Scattered shelling was received in the area, but few casualties resulted.



The Mud and Floods of Eastern France

On November 28 the 137th Infantry moved to an area approximately seven miles to the west, with the 1st Battalion locating at Harprich (see map in preceding section), the 2nd Battalion at Bistroff. The 3rd Battalion remained at Leyviller.

On the 29th and 30th the Regiment remained in these areas, to gain a well-earned rest. There were no casualties during the last three days of the month.

In the month of November the Regiment had encountered very heavy fighting. Although comparatively inactive the first week, the Regiment was in the attack more days during

November than any previous month. Since November 8 our troops had advanced over thirty miles to the north and had taken nearly 1,500 prisoners.

The 137th Regiment's casualties in the drive had not been light. It had lost 76 killed, 573 wounded, and 98 missing. However, of those missing, only 66 were unaccounted for at the end of the month. In this drive, the 137th Infantry had played an important part in the great Third Army offensive which already had resulted in the capture of Metz and the crossing of the Saar River.

Forward elements of the Regiment now stood eleven miles from the German border at Sarreguemines, 22 miles southwest of the industrial city of Saarbrücken, and awaited the orders which would carry them into the Reich itself.



As November drew to a close the 137th Infantry Regiment had set an impressive record in total number of medals awarded to its members. This total, amassed in less than four months, was 537 awards, broken down into classifications as follows: Six Distinguished Service Crosses, 122 Silver Stars, and 409 Bronze Stars.

Dec 1–5: Move to Corps Reserve

On November 23 the 137th, after having driven for sixteen straight days through the retarding mud to seize and hold Hellimer and St. Jean-Rohrbach, was relieved from enemy contact and placed in Corps Reserve.

December 1 marked the Regiment's 146th day on French soil, 111 days of which were spent in actual combat.

Dec 6-11: Move Back to Front Line

On December 8 the 137th Infantry Regiment moved by foot to a forward assembly area approximately nine miles east, in the direction of Sarreguemines. The 1st Battalion arrived in the area of Hambach by early afternoon. The Battalion was then alerted that they would later move by foot from Hambach to Sarreguemines. The objective was to occupy the town and patrol the south bank of the Saar River.



At dawn on December 9, the 1st Battalion of the 137th moved up from Hambach to Sarreguemines to occupy the town. The riflemen occupying the city proper were constantly bothered by snipers, who killed one man and wounded six others of the 1st Battalion.

The 137th Infantry was to attack early on the following morning, marching from its assembly area to cross the Saar River by using the railroad bridge south of the town. The 2nd and 3rd Battalions abreast were to attack at first light. The 2nd Battalion, on the left, was ordered to take that portion of Sarreguemines that lay north of the river, also to attempt to seize intact the bridge that crossed the Blies River within its sector. The 3rd Battalion was to attack within its zone and seize the high ground south of the Blies River. The 1st Battalion, from positions on the south bank of the Saar, was to support the advance of the 2nd Battalion by fire and cover the bridge across the Blies River, this in an attempt to keep the enemy from blowing the bridge.

On December 10, the attack moved smoothly with the 3rd Battalion crossing the railroad bridge on the southeastern outskirts of Sarreguemines without receiving any enemy fire.

The battalions completed the crossing at dawn, just north of Remelfing. The 2nd Battalion completed crossing right behind the 3rd, and both battalions closed into their assembly areas north of the river. With poor visibility from an overcast sky, but no rain, the two battalions jumped off in the morning.



Bridge Over the Saar River Near Sarreguemines

The 2nd Battalion met bitter resistance from the enemy which was strongly organized in the Pottery Plant southeast of Sarreguemines. After a four-hour battle, they captured the factory and moved again into Sarreguemines proper.

The 3rd Battalion operating on the right flank was receiving heavy fire and bitter resistance in its sector. The 3rd Battalion called for air support on the town of Neunkirch when enemy tanks were seen in the village. The 1st Battalion crossed the Saar River in support of the 2nd Battalion and was encountering sniper fire when darkness fell on the city.

The 137th Infantry continued the attack on December 11 as the 2nd Battalion cleaned out the remainder of Sarreguemines, liberating 995 ex-POWs left behind by the Nazis. The 3rd Battalion pushed on from Neunkirch, took over the Sarreguemines airfield and went on to capture the town of Frauenberg, on the Blies River.

The 2nd and 3rd Battalions shoved off again in the morning. The 1st Battalion was positioned to secure Sarreguemines on the eastern bank of the river after the 2nd Battalion had moved on. The 2nd Battalion, however, experienced considerable difficulty in ridding Sarreguemines of the remaining enemy. All the buildings were honeycombed with passages and were mouse-holed for machine gunners and snipers.

The 3rd Battalion left Neunkirch in the morning and called for artillery fire to be placed on the high ground overlooking the Blies River from the north, where the enemy had commanding observation. They secured the high ground by late morning and secured the position from where they continued the attack toward Frauenberg. Lead companies entered the town and, one hour later, they were engaged in fighting in the German border

village. By late evening, Frauenberg was clear of enemy. The 1st Battalion had crossed the Saar River and closed into eastern Sarreguemines.

CROSS INTO GERMANY Dec 12–23

Just after midnight on December 12, the 137th Infantry had the first man in the Division to enter Germany. This day the Regiment was to develop the situation and patrol the left flank of the Division. No crossings were to be attempted except with Division approval.

The forward elements of the Regiment were heavily shelled throughout the day and quite a few casualties were suffered. Frauenberg was rapidly turning into the hottest town ever occupied by 137th troops.

Elements of the 137th Infantry's 3rd Battalion crossed the Blies River into Germany before dawn on the morning of December 13 and encountered severe artillery fire throughout the day. The 1st Battalion was positioned to contain a large number of enemy troops on the north banks of the Saar and Blies Rivers (north of Sarreguemines).

Riflemen crossed the Blies River in assault boats near the town of Frauenberg and were the first Regimental troops to make the assault crossing. Six of the eight boats attempting the crossing were successful. Two overturned in the water. These troops crossed in the face of heavy fire from enemy machine guns emplaced on the high ground north of the river. Terrific artillery and mortar barrages met the boats as they reached the opposite shore and most of the boats were so riddled with bullets that they were unable to make the return crossing. No further crossings were attempted in daylight, since at each attempt to cross an intense barrage was laid down on the crossing site, which was in direct observation of the enemy from the high ground across the river. In general throughout the Regimental area, the artillery fire was unusually heavy.

The 3rd Battalion of the 137th Infantry was entirely across the Blies River into Germany shortly after midnight and on December 14 they pushed ahead to the high ground north and northeast of the river. The 1st Battalion continued its defense of the Division's left flank, protecting Sarreguemines and the Regimental sector all along the Blies River while the 2nd Battalion remained this side of the river and prepared to follow the 3rd Battalion.

The 3rd Battalion jumped off at dawn under heavy and small arms fire. Their rifle units were established in positions along the high ground north and northeast of the Blies River. In the woods, to the Battalion's front, the enemy was delivering intense tank and mortar fire on the forward elements of the Battalion.

The enemy continued to shell the entire Regimental area throughout the day, the 3rd Battalion receiving a particularly heavy barrage. Vehicles running along the road from Neunkirch to Frauenberg did so at their own risk. The enemy had perfect observation on the road and the town.

WILBER KAHLE WWII CROSS INTO GERMANY



The enemy opposing the 3rd Battalion continued to hang on bitterly to the Breiterwald Woods on December 15, despite the fact that P-47 fighters in close air support were bombing and strafing their positions.

After reorganizing its forces, the 3rd Battalion launched another attack on the Breiterwald Woods. Riflemen advanced against fierce Nazi fire and took the small patch of woods just southeast of the Breiterwald Woods. Other forces attacked the larger woods. Supported by armor, the riflemen companies reached the center of the woods, meeting fanatical German resistance all the way from Nazi armor to infantry. Shortly before dark, the two 3rd Battalion units were counterattacked and driven back a short distance, but not out of the woods. During the night they were very heavily shelled by enemy artillery and mortar fire.

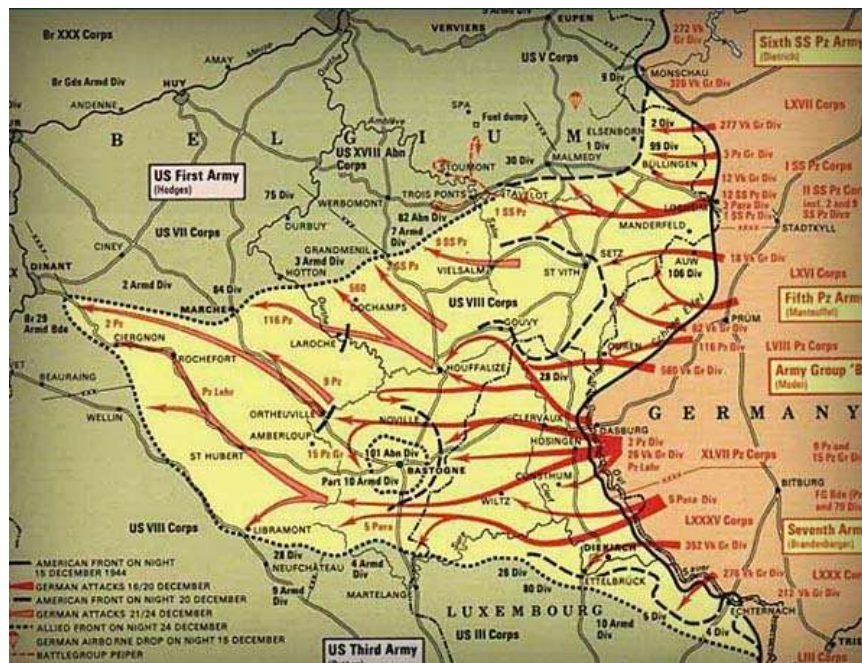
The 1st Battalion remained in position with the same mission of protecting the north flank of the Division. This day's casualties were the heaviest of any day since the Regiment started its Saar River operation.

Pushed back to the edge of the Breiterwald Woods by the enemy on December 15, the 3rd Battalion again attacked the well-defended enemy positions in the forest and regained a portion of the lost ground. The enemy artillery fire remained extremely heavy throughout the day, and Frauenberg received its usual pounding of intense artillery and mortar fire. At the same time our air support bombed and strafed Bliesmengen and the woods to the east of it. The 1st Battalion was protecting the Division's left flank in Sarreguemines and along the Blies River pocket. Before dark the 3rd Battalion elements were counterattacked by German tanks and infantry and driven back to the edge of the woods.

Battle of the Bulge

Meanwhile, to the north of the 137th Division's position, the Ardennes Battle began on December 16, 1944 with a surprise, massive German offensive under Gen. Von Runstedt. The German counterattack occurred along a 45 mile front some 35 miles west of the Rhine River and due west of the German cities of Cologne, Hamm, and Koblenz. It followed the same routes through Luxembourg and Belgium taken by the German armies in 1914 and again in 1940. The Allied command had left that area thinly defended by four American Divisions – the 99th, 4th, 28th and 106th – the latter just arrived on the line fresh from the States and not yet battle tested.

Imagine the surprise to these Americans when without warning, this quiet sector erupted in the pre-dawn with an hour and a half barrage from all types of artillery, then search lights through the morning fog, then coming through that haze all along the sector were tanks and infantry from 24 German Panzer and infantry divisions. Within hours the 106th was overrun and destroyed, some 6,000 G.I.s taken prisoner, the other units, badly mauled, were driven back in confusion, split into small groups, isolated, fighting small individual battles, to try to stop or slow the German onslaught. They faced some 970 Panzer tanks and 800 Luftwaffe planes which for several days penetrated through the mists and clouds which covered the battlefields. Allied communications were badly disrupted and battle reports distorted or not coming back at all, creating confusion and uncertainties in all headquarters.



Map Showing Maximum German Advance (Yellow Section) in the Battle of Bulge

The 35th Division, well to the south of the Ardennes Battle, continued its attack inside of Germany. Little was known about what the rest of the 3rd Army was doing, let alone

what was happening in the First Army whose VIII Corps had been hit so hard in the Ardennes. But rumors spread fast, like wildfire, in an army, and we learned quickly that a major German offensive had broken through in the North, with Germans in American uniforms and using American equipment infiltrating or dropping behind our lines.

Dec. 17 – 23: Advance on Frauenberg

On December 17, 137th Infantry elements were fighting under the heaviest artillery fire they had ever experienced in France or Germany. The 3rd Battalion forces in the Breiterwald Woods were unable to move against the savage enemy resistance and were taking a severe shelling all day. The artillery attack was part of the German plan to solidify the southern front while their Ardennes offensive, 50 miles to the north, pushed west through Luxembourg and Belgium.

Though our direct support artillery pounded enemy positions in the woods, and the air support bombed and strafed the German positions unmercifully, the enemy still held tenaciously to the forest.

Elements of the 2nd Battalion fighting in Bliesmengen were faced by direct enemy tank fire, and other elements were pinned down all day. The enemy continued to shell the Regimental area regularly during the period. Frauenberg was hit very heavily again and again during the day.

All units of the 137th Infantry were alerted at noon for the arrival of bomber-support. The fighter bombers hit the enemy in Bucholz Woods, ahead of the Regiment's positions.



American Soldiers on the Attack

WILBER KAHLE WWII BATTLE OF THE BULGE

The 3rd Battalion was relieved by the 1st Battalion at late on December 17. Company A took over the patch of woods below the Breiterwald, while Companies B and C relieved the 3rd Battalion elements in the woods proper. The 137th was ordered to resume the attack on the morning of December 18.

On December 18, the enemy was heavily pounded by P-47 aircraft in the Regimental sector throughout the day. Breiterwald Woods was again the scene of fierce battles between German and American infantry and tanks. The enemy was unable to stop the assault of our forces and was driven back to the rear edge of the woods.

On the evening of December 18, because of the rapid German advance in the Battle of the Bulge to our north, the Regiment was ordered to stop its attack and to consolidate its positions on the most favorable ground. At that time, the 137th's 1st Battalion was holding all of the Breiterwald Woods and a small patch of woods near Bannholz.

On December 19, Frauenberg continued to receive terrific artillery and mortar fire. The enemy fired again and again at the Frauenberg-Habkirchen Bridge, but never scored a hit.

The 1st Battalion continued to hold its position on the edge of the Breiterwald Woods and repelled numerous German counterattacks. Roadblocks were established on all entrances to the woods and minefields laid on all logical mechanized approaches. Several enemy tanks fired on the 1st Battalion from a distance of 1,000 yards but were driven off by Yank artillery.

On December 20, the 1st Battalion was attacked repeatedly during the day, and [Company B](#) had two companies of SS troops infiltrate into its positions. This attack took place in the neck of the woods. The attack was held off by one squad of B Company until one friendly tank was brought up, and the combined fire of the infantry and tank drove the enemy from the position. Several enemy tanks made sorties toward the 1st Battalion positions, but direct fire from our Tank Destroyers and artillery fire drove them off.



WILBER KAHLE WWII BATTLE OF THE BULGE

The 2nd Battalion remained in position on the high ground near the woods and improved their positions during the day. The Battalion received heavy enemy artillery fire on the ridge during the period. During one two and a half hour period, 1,000 rounds of artillery and mortar fire fell on the ridge and portion of the woods held by the Battalion.

On December 21, the 137th Infantry received orders that it would be relieved prior to midnight that day. The Regiment was to assemble temporarily in the vicinity of Frauenberg, Habkirchen, and Neunkirch until ordered to move to an assembly area.

In the morning the 1st Battalion continued its defense of the Regimental sector. With a heavy artillery barrage, the enemy launched a heavy counterattack on the 1st Battalion positions. This attack was repulsed with heavy enemy losses. During the day the enemy artillery and mortar fire was extremely heavy on enemy positions.

The 1st Battalion's relief was completed on schedule. The Battalion assembled and prepared to move to the new Regimental Assembly Area. Our trucks carried us in rapidly deteriorating winter weather to assembly areas near Metz, France. There, we pulled up into a French army barracks where we received new replacements, equipment --- and new rumors. Early on December 22 the 1st Battalion entered the new Assembly Area at Grundweiler.



Metz on Christmas Day, 1944

Meanwhile, the Germans had been pouring tanks and infantry through the breaches in the American lines. The 101st Airborne Division had been rushed in trucks to Bastogne, a Belgian communication and road center about 35 miles north of our position near Metz.

WILBER KAHLE WWII BATTLE OF THE BULGE

In Bastogne, the American units were completely surrounded by the Panzer Lehr and the 26th Volksgrenadier Division of the German Fifth Army.

Dec 24-26 Division Move Through Metz to Assembly Area for Battle of the Bulge

Gen. George Patton was ordered to counter-attack the German incursion into Belgium with units from his Third Army. Accordingly, he quickly transferred the 35th Division (includes the 137th Regiment) to the Third Corps along with the 4th Armored Division and the 26th Division. And on December 23rd he sent these three divisions to attack the German lines South of Bastogne and along the Arlon Highway. Their mission was to break through to the besieged Bastogne defenders and to secure that corridor.

As part of the above general order, on December 24 the 35th Division (137th Regiment part of this Division) was ordered to move by combat team to the Metz area. The Division had 78 trucks assigned for the move. The 137th Infantry Regiment moved northwest toward Metz and into its new assembly area, and, going through St. Avold, Boulet and Metz, arrived at its destination, Moulins, early in the morning. Moulins is just west of Metz. The Regiment rested, and cleaned and repaired equipment. They also attended movies and washed clothes, uniforms, and spent Christmas in this location. The 137th Regiment remained assembled in the German barracks in Moulins.

Early on December 26, the 137th Infantry Combat Team moved by motor from the Metz area and closed into assembly areas in the vicinity of Nothomb, Belgium, by early afternoon.



WILBER KAHLE WWII BATTLE OF THE BULGE

The Regimental motor column entered Belgium via Messancy, turned west and bypassed the town of Arlon, passed through Pontellange and on to Nothomb. Regimental Headquarters was established in Nothomb, while the battalions moved on into Luxembourg and the 1st Battalion closed into Roodtles Ell, southeast of Holtz.

The 137th Infantry was to attack on the morning of December 27 relieving the pressure on the 101st Airborne Division, which was surrounded in Bastogne.

BACK ON ATTACK Dec 27 – Jan 8

Back on Attack: Surre, Sure Woods, Livarchamps, Villers-la-Bonne-Eau

To secure a relief corridor to Bastogne, the 35th Division attacked through knee-deep snow, with the 137th Regiment on the left, the 320th Regiment to the right, followed the next day by the 134th Regiment. Our line of departure was about nine miles from Bastogne and for the next two weeks we learned the meaning of freezing in hell for we ran into some of the bitterest and most difficult fighting of the war, the coldest temperatures dipping below zero, and the costliest in terms of casualties. We attacked and so did the Germans, from assault to stalemate, from defense to counter-attack. Casualties were heavy on both sides, and men would be hit and fall and freeze to death before they could be gotten out. Corps men would have to keep blood plasma under their arms to keep it from freezing. Trench feet and frozen feet made some men incapable of moving. We did not know that Hitler had ordered some of his best remaining troops to cut off the Third Army's relief of Bastogne at all costs.

WILBER KAHLE WWII BATTLE OF THE BULGE



The 137th Infantry jumped off in the morning of December 27, with the 2nd Battalion on the right and the 3rd on the left, with the 1st Battalion held in reserve at Tintange. The 2nd Battalion crossed the Surre River in late morning with the first elements of Company G entering the town of Surre. Company E was held up by enemy machine gun fire and was unable to enter the town. The 1st Battalion left Tintange in the afternoon, and moved in march formation toward Surre. By early evening, the entire Battalion was on the road to Surre and the point was receiving machine gun fire from its left flank.

The 3rd Battalion was driving ahead on the left flank, under small arms fire and mortar barrages. In the afternoon, the 3rd Battalion was hit by a terrific artillery barrage. The Regiment was ordered to halt its advance at in early evening and organize defensive positions. The 137th was to resume the attack at dawn on December 28.

The 1st Battalion had two companies in Surre by evening and was busily securing the town. Company E pushed out into the woods and ran into strong enemy dug-in positions.

On December 28, the 137th Infantry attacked north of Surre, against all types of heavy enemy fire and drove eastward to assault Villers-la-Bonne-Eau.

WILBER KAHLE WWII BATTLE OF THE BULGE

The 1st Battalion was located in Surre. At first light, the companies began to move into the woods. The 3rd Battalion attacked Livarchamps but they were receiving heavy small arms, rocket, and artillery fire from nearby Villers-La-Bonne-Eau. Within a short time the fire had increased, and the enemy was delivering machine gun fire and direct fire from self-propelled 88's on the 3rd Battalion positions. The 2nd Battalion, driving into the woods, was in the face of direct tank fire and considerable mortar. Enemy tracked vehicles were located 600 yards to the direct front.



Laying Anti-Tank Mines in the Woods

The 3rd Battalion launched its attack at noon with the mission of getting into Villers-la-Bonne-Eau. The 1st Battalion moved out of Surre at in the afternoon. By evening, the 3rd Battalion, after a bitter battle, was in the town of Villers-la-Bonne-Eau.

In early evening the Regiment was ordered to suspend the attack and consolidate for the night, with resumption of attack planned for the following morning. All units were warned to beware of enemy counter-attacks during the night or early morning. The Surre Woods still contained many German troops.

On December 29, the 137th Infantry attacked again in the Surre Woods against bitter machine gun and tank fire.

Following an air strike on the Germans, the 2nd Battalion attacked through the woods, meeting heavy tank and self-propelled gun fire. The Battalion advanced against this fire to the last tip of the Surre Woods. In parallel, the 1st Battalion's attack also ran into heavy fire; Companies A and C led the attacking troops and advanced toward the town of Villers-la-Bonne-Eau.

WILBER KAHLE WWII BATTLE OF THE BULGE

The 137th was ordered to cease its attack in the evening and to continue the attack on the next morning, December 30. All roads leading into the area were to be mined and blocked. Roadblocks were to be in depth, several on each road. The Regiment halted its attack and buttoned up for the night. Enemy artillery fire was very heavy in the Regimental area during the night, with the Regimental area receiving several barrages of rockets. The snow that had fallen the previous day had frozen over, and the ground and roads were extremely slippery. Harlange and Villers-la-Bonne-Eau remained the main points of enemy resistance. The 1st Battalion assembled at Livarchamps.

At first light on December 30th the rifle companies advanced toward Harlange. The companies advanced with moderate resistance until they reached a position within 400 yards of Harlange, at which time they received severe machine gun and mortar fire, pinning it down. The enemy also opened up on them with flanking fire from the right and left flank. The companies withdrew from the open field under a protective barrage.



G.I.'s Defending at Harlange

At dawn on the same day, the 3rd Battalion held four buildings in Villers-la-Bonne-Eau, but within a few hours the enemy activity and resistance in the town increased considerably. Enemy assault guns and SS troops moved into the town in the morning to reinforce its garrison. Enemy armored guns moved in and around the town, shooting into the houses occupied by elements of the 3rd Battalion. Two of these guns were knocked out by bazooka fire, and the rest withdrew out of bazooka range. The guns continued to shell the houses, with direct fire. Heavy fighting continued all during the day in the town, until Companies K and L were considered cut off from the rest of the Battalion.



Moonlight and Cold --- Luxembourg, Belgium Border

The 1st Battalion jumped off in early afternoon of December 31 towards the town of Villers-la-Bonne-Eau. Companies B and C entered the town and occupied a few of the buildings. Two enemy tanks rolled up to their positions and started shelling them with direct fire. Men from the companies fired bazookas at them, but the tanks kept just out of range. Although several bazooka rounds hit the tanks, they did not knock them out. Elements of Companies B and C were forced to withdraw to the cover of the woods. By evening, the Regiment was ordered to dig in for the night and continue operations the following morning.

Two hundred thirty-five men were reported as missing from Companies K and L of the 3rd Battalion. The majority of these men were believed to have been captured in the town of Villers-la-Bonne-Eau, where they had been cut off for two days by enemy tanks and infantry.

On January 1, on the Regiment's front, the 137th Infantry was facing the toughest opposition it had yet met in its combat experience. Elements of K and L Companies were still cut-off in Villers-la-Bonne-Eau. The 1st Battalion was in position south of Villers, while the 2nd Battalion had Companies E and F west and southwest of the Belgian town, and Company G, on the Regiment's right flank, in Luxembourg. German prisoners had stated that the SS Adolph Hitler Division and the 339th Nazi Infantry Regiment were on the 137th's front.

The 137th jumped off in early afternoon for an attack toward Villers. Patrols had been sent ahead into the town. The attacking elements had difficulty with enemy infiltration parties working around its flanks. A large number of enemies were encountered and a bitter fight ensued. Our forces had nearly completed cleaning out the Surre Woods. The Regiment was ordered to halt its advance in late evening, dig-in, mine the roads, and patrol to the front, in preparation to stepping off again in the morning. In Villers, Companies K and L were slowly being cut to pieces by tank fire and enemy flame throwers.



Soldiers of the 137th Make Prisoner Remove U.S. Clothing

The 137th Infantry continued to attack the defenses about the town of Villers-la-Bonne-Eau on January 2, as the 1st Battalion cleaned out the woods west of the town and then assisted in clearing the woods south of the enemy-held road junction west of Villers. The enemy opposition continued to be strong, as units of the 137th were under enemy artillery, tank, mortar, and machine gun fire throughout the day.

The weather was bitter cold. Deep snow which slowed attack and bogged down G.I.s who were unable to move fast enough to evade the lethal fire of enemy machine guns, mortars and artillery shells, tree bursts and craters. The fields and woods became graveyards littered with dozens of destroyed tanks and assault guns, halftracks, trucks, equipment, and corpses. We witnessed the death of the enemy Adolph Hitler Division.

Fighter-bombers bombed and strafed Villers and then struck close to the 137th front line positions. Bitter fighting was carried on along the front.

On the evening of January 2 the Division ordered operations to halt. The forward elements of the 137th dug in and sent patrols to the front during the night.

On January 3, the 137th Infantry attacked again, but was unsuccessful in taking the road junction west of Villers-la-Bonne-Eau. Enemy tanks thwarted the maneuvering of the 1st and 2nd Battalions. Heavy fire of all types was received by the Regiment throughout the day.

The 1st Battalion was under tank fire throughout the day, while both the 2nd and 3rd faced heavy artillery. The Regiment's advance was stopped in early evening. All units posted security and used patrols to keep contact with the enemy.

WILBER KAHLE WWII BATTLE OF THE BULGE

On the morning of January 4, the 137th hurled an attack at the road junction west of Villers, captured and defended the position against heavy enemy counterattacks. The intense enemy artillery fire forced heavy casualties on the Regiment.

The 137th Infantry struggled on January 5 against the stubborn resistance, as the 1st Battalion moved from its position south of the Villers road junction to a position behind the 2nd Battalion, and prepared to follow the 2nd in an attack. The 2nd Battalion supported the 1st by fire and awaited its arrival in their rear before moving out. The 2nd Battalion cleared out infiltration parties and also mopped up the draw to its front. The 3rd Battalion, relieved of roadblocks on the front, secured positions vacated in the woods by the 1st Battalion after its move.

Heavy fire was received by the Regiment throughout the day. Three terrific barrages landed at 0720, just to the right of Company F positions. During the night, vigorous patrolling was conducted.

The weather grew colder on January 6. The 137th Infantry continued its pressure for the second day on Villers following the capture of the all-important road junction. Heavy fire was received all along the Regiment's front.



Germans Attacking Through the Woods

January 7 marked the 11th day that the 137th Infantry had been struggling on against the well-defended town of Villers. The Regiment continued to put the pressure on the village as it was being ripped apart by thundering artillery. Within the 137th's zone the 1st Battalion, with Companies A and C on the line, held down the left flank.

On January 8 active patrolling was conducted against the enemy and harassing fire was delivered throughout the day, as the 137th Infantry maintained its pressure on the enemy in the vicinity of Villers-la-Bonne-Eau. The 1st Battalion was located in the area of Livarchamps.

Jan 9-16: Attack on Villers-la-Bonne-Eau, Lutremange

The 1st and 2nd Battalions launched an attack towards the Belgian Bulge on January 9. The objective was to take Villers and the ground to its north, but the enemy checked the thrust.

The 1st Battalion stepped off with Companies B and C leading the attack along with support from a company of tanks but failed to dislodge the enemy. The 2nd and 3rd Battalions were supporting on either side. The 137th Infantry, however, suffered heavy casualties as the enemy stopped the attack.



Evacuating 137th Reg. Casualties from Lutremange

The 1st Battalion was hit at 2 o'clock in the morning of January 10 by a heavy enemy patrol which drove into the perimeter line. The stab was repulsed with several enemy casualties. The line was reestablished and reinforced.

Supported by tanks and tank destroyers, the 137th Infantry pushed ahead against the enemy again on the morning of January 10, making a slight gain and capturing the much sought and fought-for town of Villers-la-Bonne-Eau. This had been a target of the Regiment for the past thirteen days.

With a company of tanks and support of tank destroyers, one of our Companies entered Villers and by afternoon held two buildings on the edge of the battered town. Later in the afternoon the entire village was cleared of the enemy.

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In late afternoon we found that the road leading from Lutremange to the East was choked with enemy vehicles. Spotters called in air strikes and artillery which pounded the enemy column.

The 137th attacked again on the morning of January 11 supported by tanks and Tank Destroyers. This was one of the coldest days experienced by the Regiment. The 1st Battalion, along with a section of tanks and a platoon of Tank Destroyers, attacked early in the morning and, within a few hours, Companies B and C had attained the Battalion's initial objective. The Battalion continued through the woods and out into the open, securing its final objective by evening ---- the high ground above Lutremange. The Regiment suffered heavy casualties this day, the majority being from the 2nd Battalion.



Town of Villers after the Battle

The 137th Infantry remained in Division reserve on January 12, with the 1st Battalion assembled in and about Hompre, the 2nd in Lutremange and the 3rd in Livarchamps.

The 137th Infantry remained in Division reserve on January 13 - 15, with all units occupying their original towns.

Jan 17 – Jan 23: Move back into France

On January 17, the Regiment received orders that it would move by motor on January 18 to the Fort Moselle Barracks in Metz, France. Three Quartermaster Truck Companies were attached to the 137th, providing 89 trucks for transportation on the move down into

France. Going for rest? No. The move was made because the Division was needed to help stop another German offensive in the sector of eastern France.

The Regiment, exercising strict counter-intelligence measures, moved out of Belgium on the morning of January 18, and went by motor to Metz, France, where the Regiment was billeted in Fort Moselle.

On this move from Belgium into France, strict secrecy was observed so that the Germans would remain unaware that a whole Division was moving. The secrecy provisions included the covering of Division patches, bumper markings, and any other markings which would disclose the unit. Route markers on this move did not show any unit designation or number.

The Combat Team departed from Martelange, Belgium, by motor and moved south through Arlon and then went on into Longwy. The column turned southeast and moved through Uckange, turned south and traveled on into Metz, and closed into Fort Moselle (located in northern Metz).

To strengthen the American line and to prevent a German breakthrough, the 35th Division, less the 134th Infantry Regiment still fighting East of Bastogne, was trucked back to Metz on January 19th to pick up replacements and re-equip, clean up, get a good meal and then move on by convoy to defensive positions in the front line in the Vosge Mountains about 25 miles southeast of Saarguemines. There we awaited a renewal of the German offensive which, quite agreeably, never materialized. We engaged in patrol actions and some artillery dueling which, compared to the Bastogne battle was a welcome relief. Snow and cold persisted. Newly arrived shoe packs, designed to cut down on trench foot, were a welcome addition in the Vosge snow drifts so long as we could remain in defensive positions.

In the evening of January 19 the Regiment was placed in reserve. The Regiment conducted rehabilitation and training during the day and also received a small number of reinforcements. From January 20 to 22, the 137th remained in reserve but on a three-hour notice to leave Metz by motor movement. Eighty-five trucks were attached to the Regiment for this movement.

On January 23, the 137th Infantry moved by motor in a southeastern direction, through the extremely cold and windy weather, from Metz to Chateau-Salins. The 1st Battalion assembled in Couthill, 2nd Battalion in Grousisville, and the 3rd Battalion was billeted in Mulcy.

Jan 24 – Jan 28 Take Over Defensive Positions near Miesenthal

On January 24th the Regiment moved by motor transport from its assembly area in the vicinity of Chateau-Salins. The 1st Battalion column left Alberstroff and traveled through Sarre-Union and Dimeringer to reach its new defensive position at Miesenthal, in

WILBER KAHLE WWII BATTLE OF THE BULGE

the Lorraine, France area. The 137th Regiment was ordered to relieve the 398th Infantry Regiment, defending and improving the latter's positions.



The Ardennes campaign ended on January 25th.

On January 25, the 137th Infantry Regiment was holding the positions it had taken over from the 398th Infantry during the early morning. Within the 137th's sector, our three battalions were on the line in their defensive positions. The 2nd Battalion was on the left, its troops holding ground on the outskirts of the town of Lemberg. In the central sector, the 3rd Battalion had its Command Post in the town of St. Louis. The 1st Battalion, on the right, was stretched out along eastern Sarreinberg and had its Command Post in Meisenthal.

The 137th Infantry continued to hold its defensive positions. Sporadic fire was received by the battalions throughout the day, although there was no heavy action.

All battalions were ordered to send out reconnaissance patrols this day and during the night of January 26-27, to determine elements of essential information such as the location of automatic weapons, fortifications, wire entanglements, minefields, and booby-trapped areas, fields of fire through woods, roadblocks, or indications of the enemy improving their defense.

Snow continued to fall throughout the day, as the 137th Infantry maintained its defensive positions on January 27, holding and improving them.

Patrols reported enemy action throughout the front of the Regiment's sector. The battalions were rotating their companies, with two outfits on the line, and the third rifle company in reserve. On January 28, the 137th Infantry continued to hold and improve its positions in its sector of defense.

MOVE TO HOLLAND Jan 29- Feb 3

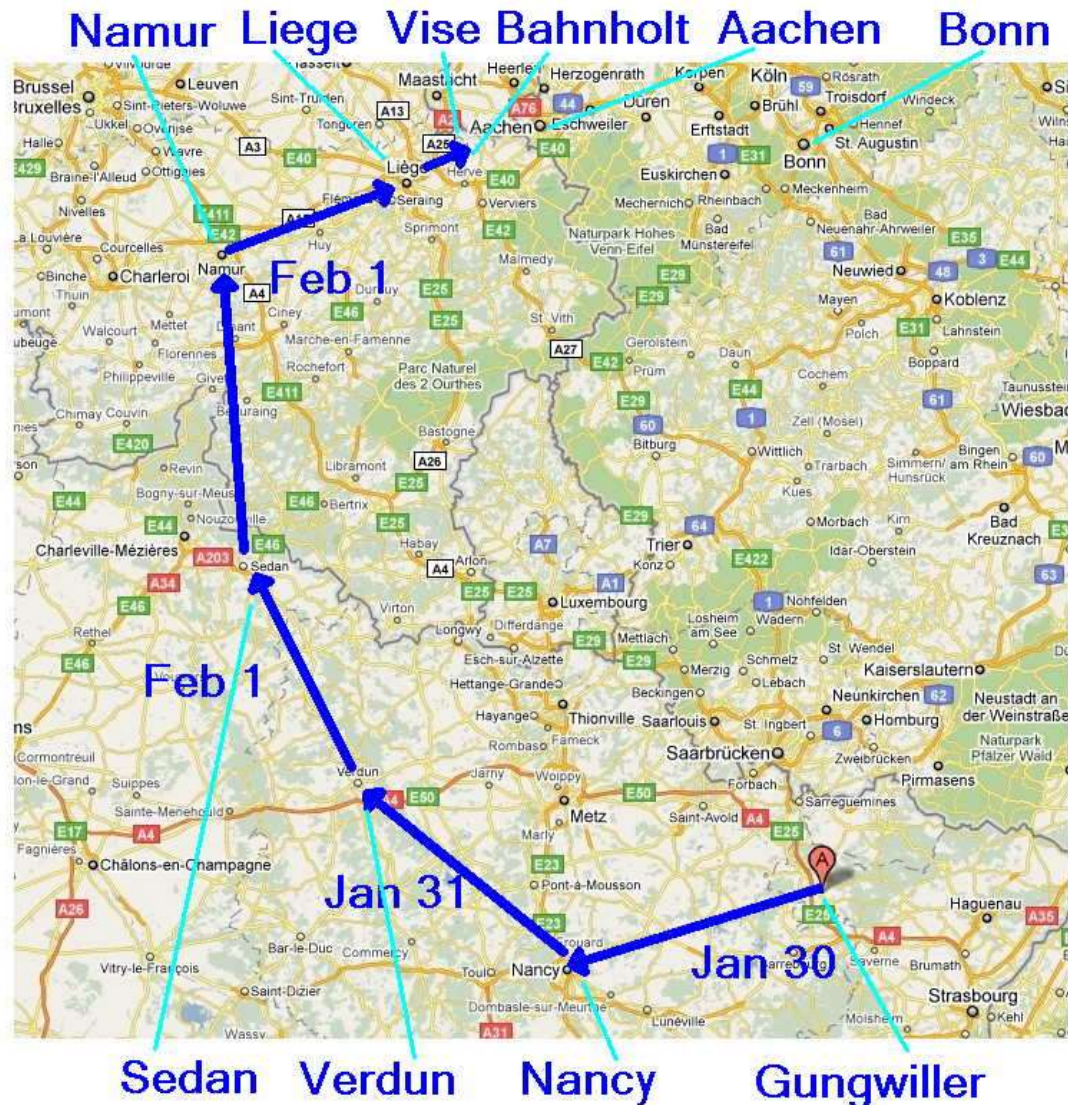
With the threat of German counter-attack removed, the Allies could return to the completion of the Rhineland campaign to sweep the Germans from the West bank of the Rhine River. The weather, one of the coldest winters in Europe on record, was moderating. We wanted to return to our original assignment with the Third Army, but surprise! It seems that Ninth Army (located in Holland, driving the Germans back to the Rhine River) had some new divisions that were untested. The Ninth Army needed a battle trained, tested and proven division like the 35th— what you might call shock troops.

It was determined that the introduction of the 35th would provide a stabilizing factor for the Ninth Army's line of battle. Thus, the 35th Division prepared for another long troop movement, 292 miles to be exact, the troops going by train (40 and 8 box cars), and the equipment cannon, and supplies by truck convoy. The destination was Sittard, Germany to replace the British 52nd Infantry Division which was located just west of the Roer River. That meant going through Luxembourg and Belgium, through the Ardennes again, and then through Holland and back into Germany. Since were starting from France, the movement would encompass crossing five countries. To fool the Germans, elaborate provisions were made to remove all unit markings on trucks and equipment, removal of the 35th Division patches, etc... So, we embarked and traveled through the night, arriving in Sittard on February 2nd, 1945, where we were greeted with a shower of German air dropped leaflets welcoming the 35th Division to their new war zone!

The 137th Regiment was relieved of its sector on January 29. The Regiment moved by motor transportation just after midnight to an assembly area near Gungwiller, France, where it was billeted in towns for the night.

On the morning of January 30, the 137th Infantry began its movement to Holland. Truck transport moved the Division on a two-day looping route which took it west and then north, circling behind (to the west) of the still-simmering Battle of the Bulge immediately to its east. The route moved through Lorentze, Sarre-Union, Fenetrance, Vic-Sur-Seille, Nancy, Toul, Void, Commercy, St. Mihiel, stopping for the night just south of Verdun, France.

The 137th Infantry continued on its move up into Holland on January 31. Troops, moving by rail, traveled through Lunenburg, Nancy, Toul, Verdun, Sedan, Mezieres, Namur, and Liege, and stopped at Vise on February 1, during the three-day move.

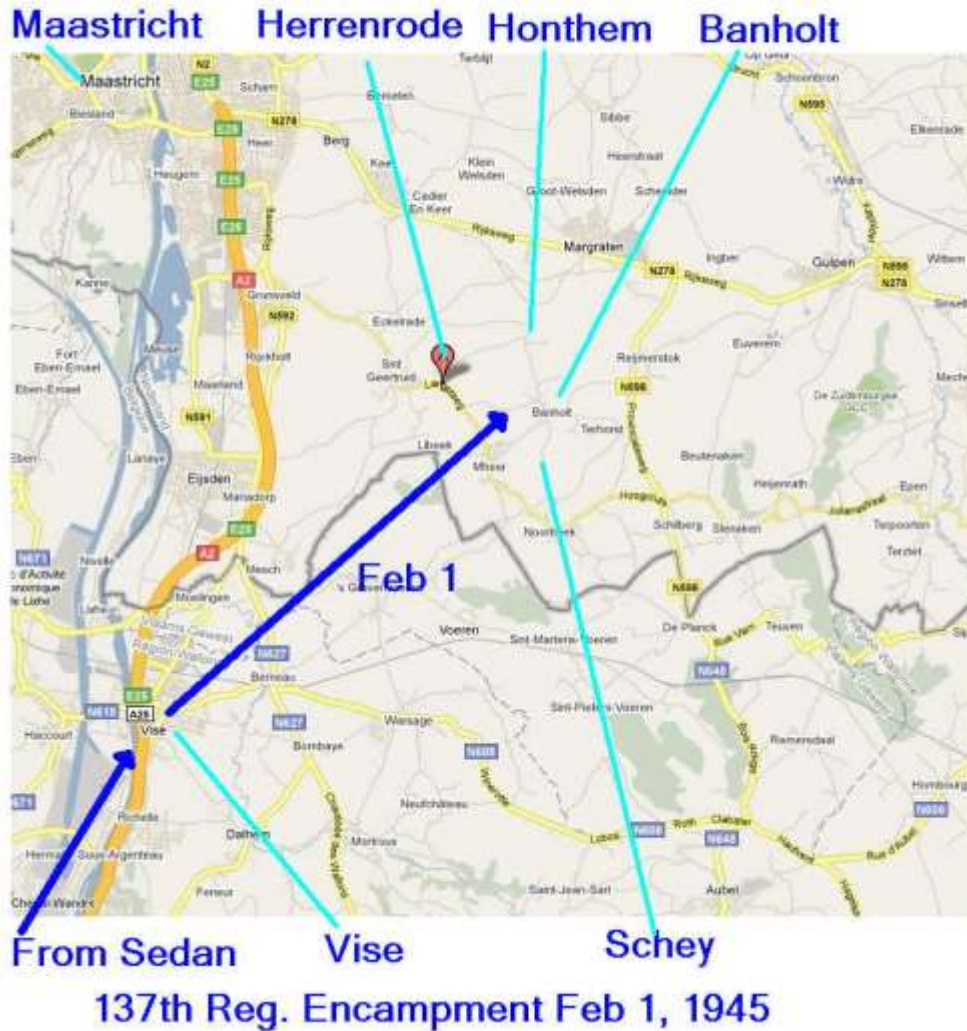


35th Div Loop Move from France to Holland

The motorized transportation left Verdun in the morning and moved on through Stenay and Sedan, crossing into Belgium at the town of Bouillon. The convoy then moved northward through Paliseui, Massin, Tellin, Rochefort, Marche, Liege and Vise. It turned northeast and moved through Warlange, entering Holland at Moorbeek. From that destination, the 1st Battalion moved to Honthem, part of the Division assembly area. This assembly area was north of Liege, east of Maastricht, and near the Meuse River (runs north/south at this point).

Division casualties for the month of January were 34 men killed in action, 222 men wounded in action, and six men missing in action. Twenty-three prisoners passed through the 137th Infantry POW cage during the month.

The Regiment's new assembly area was located north of Liege and east of the Netherlands city of Maastricht. Regimental Headquarters and Special Units moved into Banholt, Netherlands and the 1st Battalion set up their base at Honthem. The 137th Regiment closed into its area by early evening.



The Regiment remained in its assembly area February 2 and 3 as the 35th Division remained in Corps reserve.

REENTERING GERMANY Feb 5 – Feb 24

For the second time, the 35th Division was inside the German border. Unlike the hilly country in northeastern France around Saarguemines and the Blies River, this was the level lowland country in the Roer River Valley. The roads and fields were muddy and there were few if any civilians around as they had been evacuated by the British from the front line areas. Land mines and booby traps were all over, placed there by withdrawing German troops. The British had been in these positions for many weeks and cautioned us to be careful. There were snipers out there among the houses or behind bushes with scopes, who were good at picking off an unwary soldier. Machine gun nests were also at strategic spots, as witnessed by an unlucky Tommy who was still laid out along a road where he had been hit several days before and died too far from safety. No-man's land was soggy, and there was the constant threat that the Germans would blow the Roer River dams at any time and flood the area through which the Allied offensive must go. Finally, the Germans finally did blow up the dam, forcing a delay in our attack across the Roer River from February 9th to February 23rd.

On February 5th the 35th Division was ordered to relieve elements of the British 52nd Infantry Division which were then located in defensive positions inside Germany. The 137th Infantry was to move by motor from its assembly area in Holland to the sector held by the British 156th Infantry Brigade. The 137th Regiment was to occupy and defend the same defensive positions held by the British Infantry.

The 137th Regiment moved by motor from its assembly area in Holland to the British positions. The 1st Battalion moved into the right sector of the Regiment's zone and relieved the 7th Cameronians, a Scottish infantry regiment. Troops took up defensive positions on the northern outskirts of Heinsberg and southeast of this battered German town.



Company A, while conducting a reconnaissance patrol to the front, was pinned down by enemy fire coming from a nearby building. Reinforcements were sent out to contact the patrol, but failed to locate the Company A men. It was believed that one officer and four enlisted men were captured by the enemy.

The roads in the Regimental sector were in poor condition due to mud and rain. A number of roads were impassable for vehicles. On February 8 the 137th Infantry continued to hold and defend its positions. Patrolling was conducted by the front line units. The 1st Battalion received sporadic enemy fire throughout the day; otherwise the enemy artillery was light.

The 137th Infantry continued to hold its defensive positions west of the Roer River on February 11 as enemy fire increased slightly during the day.

The enemy destruction of the floodgates at the mighty Schwammenauel Dam this day sent tons of water flooding down upon the Roer Valley and caused the Roer River to rise to a stage as much as seven feet above its normal average along our front. The Roer, normally a sluggish and comparatively narrow stream winding through scenic and industrial German countryside had been changed into a raging torrent in some sections. In the 137th Regiment area the Roer had overflowed its banks and flooded large areas.

The 137th Infantry and the enemy watched each other across the enemy-created flood of the Roer River on February 12 – 21 as the Regiment maintained its defensive positions. Sporadic enemy artillery fire continued throughout this interval, as well as flare activity during darkness. The 1st Battalion was in line at Aphoven.



Aphoven

WILBER KAHLE WWII REENTERING GERMANY

Just after midnight on February 21st, a 2nd Battalion patrol went into Haag. They found no activity in the town, but they became involved in a fire fight with an enemy patrol while returning to friendly lines. All companies were alerted when 25 to 30 Germans were observed crossing the Roer River in boats. Three additional boatloads of from six to eight men each crossed to the western shore of the river. The Observation Post kept the enemy under constant observation as mortars were brought forward to engage anyone attempting to cross the river. The enemy failed to make a thrust at any of the positions of the 137th.

The 137th Infantry Regiment was relieved of its sector on February 22. The Regiment moved back out of Germany into a reserve assembly area in Schinveld, Holland.



On February 24 we received the order to sew on all 35th Division patches and paint bumper markings on all vehicles at once. The veil of secrecy, in place since the Divisions relocation from France, was lifted.

Following a preparatory artillery barrage, other Regiments of the Division jumped off early on the morning of February 24 to clear the attack zones to the Roer River. The 137th Infantry, however, remained in Division reserve in its assembly area in Holland where it conducted reconnaissance for possible commitment into any sector of the Division.

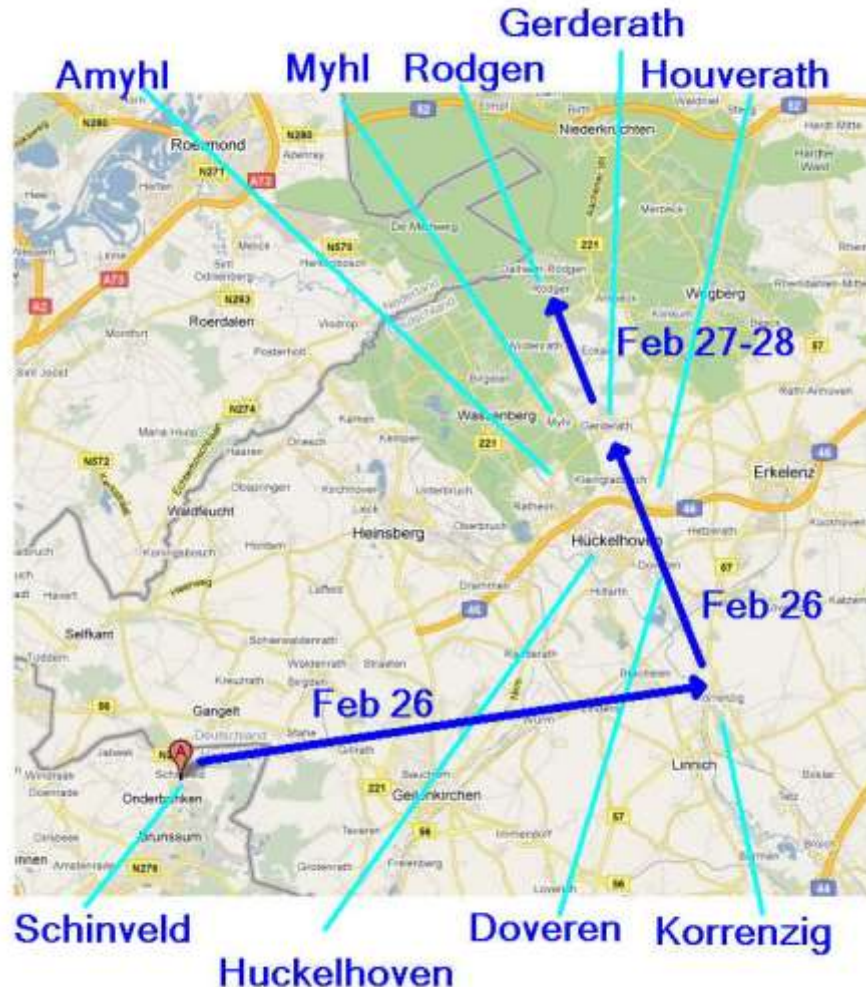
CROSS BACK INTO GERMANY Feb 25 – 28

The 137th Regiment continued its duty as the 35th Division Reserve in Schinveld, Holland until the evening of the February 25th. The Regiment was then ordered to cross the Roer River at Korrenzig, thus reentering Germany, and move by foot to Doveren, the line of departure for the attack northward.

The 137th Infantry crossed the Roer River by motor under cover of darkness. At around 3 in the morning on February 26, reconnaissance elements moved forward to Doveren

WILBER KAHLE WWII REENTERING GERMANY

and the infantry of the Regiment moved to the line of departure. The entire Regiment closed into the Doveren area by dawn and was then subjected to a heavy enemy artillery barrage.



The 2nd Battalion advance was met by heavy mortar and artillery fire. The Riflemen moved through the woods east of Huckelhoven while under mortar fire. They were followed by a platoon of tanks. The Battalion then proceeded to the right of the nearby woods. The Battalion pulled up at the stream bed near the edge of the woods, dug-in, and blazed away at the enemy confronting it.

The 137th Regiment received considerable mortar, small arms, automatic weapons, and artillery fire during the day, as the enemy was making observations from a high slag pile in Huckelhoven. The 3rd Battalion, attacking on the right flank of the Regiment, captured the town of Houwerath and moved on to the north.



Continuing the attack a second day, the 137th Infantry shoved ahead on February 27, driving the Germans out of Gerderath, the Gerderath woods, Fronderath, Gerderhahn, and Almyhl. At first light the 2nd Battalion launched its attack with tanks and tank destroyers. The Battalion fanned out, went through the woods southwest of Gerderath, moved across the stream, and cleaned out a patch of woods 500 yards wide south of Myhl. The Battalion advanced over 2,000 yards. Company machine guns were firing from upstairs windows of houses in Gladbach into the town of Myhl.

In parallel, the 1st Battalion, in Regimental reserve since the beginning of the operation, joined the attack on Myhl. By late afternoon the Battalion had captured Almyhl and then continued on toward Myhl.

On February 28, the 137th infantrymen trudged ahead, working through the Birgeler Woods and seizing the towns of Wildenrath, Rodgen, Arsbeck, and Station-Vlodrop. The enemy offered slight resistance of small arms, automatic weapons fire on leading elements of the 137th during the day's operations.

The 1st Battalion had cleared the town of Myhl during the night, consolidated its positions, and continued the attack on February 28, moving northwest to the road junction east of Rodgen.

The Regiment had advanced 6,000 meters during the day, clearing road blocks and flushing cellars in the towns passed through. The Regiment's battle casualties for the month of February were five killed in action, 30 wounded in action, and five missing in action.

March 1-4: Attack North to Lintfort, Germany

March 1 found the 137th Infantry Combat Team in the vicinity of Rodgen, Germany, continuing its swift attack toward the Rhine River. The 137th's mission was to advance and close into an assembly area near Leuth, Germany, southeast of Venlo, Holland. Regimental Headquarters moved into Leuth near midnight.

Meanwhile, early on March 2, the 1st Battalion met enemy opposition outside of Kierkenback, its proposed assembly area. The Battalion was confronted by an entrenched roadblock and a wood to the right of the road, with an estimated number of 65 enemies. By 5 o'clock in the morning, the 1st Battalion troops and their tank destroyers had flushed the woods, cleared the enemy situation, and advanced into the town.



During the early morning a gun crew of Cannon Company captured 40 enemy soldiers without a fight as the enemy came marching down a road to their positions. Later in the morning, when the Service Company quartering party entered Leutherheide and spotted an estimated number of 65 enemy troops, it reported the news to the 137th Command Post. A task force was organized of armored cars, tank destroyers, and seven jeep loads of men roared into the town, and so surprised the enemy that 35 surrendered and the remainder fled. The 137th remained assembled in the area on March 2.

WILBER KAHLE WWII REENTERING GERMANY

The 137th Infantry Combat Team departed from its assembly area in the vicinity of Venlo, Holland, in the afternoon of March 3. They moved by foot and motor to an assembly area west of Nieukirk, Germany, where it closed by late evening. The 2nd and 1st Battalions left their areas and marched 14 miles through the night prior to jumping-off in an attack at first light on March 4.

The 2nd Battalion launched its drive and swiftly secured the town of Rheurdt, southwest of Lintfort. The Battalion seized two bridges intact over the Fleuth Landwehr (explain) at 10 a.m. The 1st Battalion, advancing meanwhile, also took crossings over the Fleuth Landwehr until it met strongly held and fortified enemy positions in the woods to its front, protecting Lintfort.



The 8th Armored desired to seize Lintfort by attacking through the 137th's 2nd Battalion, a plan which was mutually agreed upon by the respective commanders. The attack on Lintfort began at dawn with the 8th Armored leading the way into the city while the 2nd Battalion followed with supporting fire. The 1st and 3rd Battalions attacked in the left zone. Company A advanced to a point northwest of Lintfort before it was pinned down by heavy enemy fire.

WILBER KAHLE WWII MISSING IN ACTION

March 4: Sgt. Bud Kahle Missing in Action

Sgt. Bud Kahle was reported missing in action on March 4. His **Company B** would have been near Company A noted above attacking to the northwest of Lintfort. Lintfort was captured on March 5, 1945.

Bud Kahle's family in St. Louis received notice of his capture on March 22, with follow-up memos on March 23 and March 26 (see following).

CLASS OF SERVICE	WESTERN UNION	SYMBOLS
This is a full-rate Telegram or Cablegram unless its deferred character is indicated by a suitable symbol above or preceding the address.	A. N. WILLIAMS PRESIDENT	DL = Day Letter NL = Night Letter LC = Deferred Cable NLT = Cable Night Letter Elate Radiogram
The filing time shown in the date line on telegrams and day letters is STANDARD TIME at point of origin. Time of receipt is STANDARD TIME at point of destination.		
<p>AA65 A.LF297 42 GOVT=WUX WASHINGTON DC 22 145P MRS MARY E KAHLE =3100 GARY DRIVE VELDA VILLAGE NORMANDY MO GE=</p> <p>THE SECRETARY OF WAR DESIRES ME TO EXPRESS HIS DEEP REGRET THAT YOUR HUSBAND SGT KAHLE WILBER L HAS BEEN MISSING IN ACTION IN GERMANY SINCE 14 MAR 45 IF FURTHER DETAILS OR OTHER INFORMATION ARE RECEIVED YOU WILL BE PROMPTLY NOTIFIED</p> <p>=J A ULIO THE ADJUTANT GENERAL.</p> <p>14 45</p> <p>THE COMPANY WILL APPRECIATE SUGGESTIONS FROM ITS PATRONS CONCERNING ITS SERVICE</p>		
<p>14 45</p> <p>THE COMPANY WILL APPRECIATE SUGGESTIONS FROM ITS PATRONS CONCERNING ITS SERVICE</p>		
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<p>AK17 A.WA592L PD=WASHINGTON DC 23 B K LEACH= =1806 RAILWAY EXCHANGE BLDG STL=</p> <p>ADJUTANT GENERAL ADVISES NO FURTHER NEWS REGARDING SERGEANT KAHLE SINCE HI SWIRE OF 22. WILL KEEP IN TOUCH AND WIRE ANY NEWS. WARMEST PERSONAL REGARDS=</p> <p>LUKE LEA.</p> <p>22..A</p> <p>EO 3963 DA GG DA FK DA FK DA FK 230P DA FK 230P</p>		

**WILBER KAHLE WWII
MISSING IN ACTION**

rbp

**WAR DEPARTMENT
THE ADJUTANT GENERAL'S OFFICE
WASHINGTON 25, D. C.**

IN REPLY REFER TO:
AG 201 Kahle, Wilber L.
PC-W ETO 072

23 March 1945

Mrs. Mary E. Kahle
3100 Gary Drive, Velda Village
Normandy, Missouri

Dear Mrs. Kahle:

This letter is to confirm my recent telegram in which you were regretfully informed that your husband, Sergeant Wilber L. Kahle, 37,633,828, has been reported missing in action in Germany since 4 March 1945.


I know that added distress is caused by failure to receive more information or details. Therefore, I wish to assure you that at any time additional information is received it will be transmitted to you without delay, and, if in the meantime no additional information is received, I will again communicate with you at the expiration of three months.

The term "missing in action" is used only to indicate that the whereabouts or status of an individual is not immediately known. It is not intended to convey the impression that the case is closed. I wish to emphasize that every effort is exerted continuously to clear up the status of our personnel. Under war conditions this is a difficult task as you must readily realize. Experience has shown that many persons reported missing in action are subsequently reported as prisoners of war, but as this information is furnished by countries with which we are at war, the War Department is helpless to expedite such reports.

The personal effects of an individual missing overseas are held by his unit for a period of time and are then sent to the Effects Quartermaster, Kansas City, Missouri, for disposition as designated by the soldier.

Permit me to extend to you my heartfelt sympathy during this period of uncertainty.

Sincerely yours,


J. A. ULIO
Major General
The Adjutant General

1 Inclosure
Bulletin of Information

**WILBER KAHLE WWII
MISSING IN ACTION**

1135 SHOREHAM BUILDING
WASHINGTON 5, D. C.

March 26, 1945

Mr. B. K. Leach,
1806 Railway Exchange Bldg.,
St. Louis, Missouri.

Dear B. K.:

I am afraid the news in regard to Sergeant Wilber L. Kahle, 37633828 is not going to be good.

His Platoon (2nd), Company B, 137th Regiment, 35th Division was in action against the Germans and he was not reported among the wounded or the known dead.

If Sergeant Kahle had been in the Air Force, his being reported missing would not have had quite the dire significance as it has in being reported missing in the ground forces, when but few prisoners were being taken by the Germans.

It is not expected that there will be any news in the immediate future. As soon, however, as there should be any definite news, either good or bad, the Adjutant General's Office will immediately wire Mrs. Kahle.

With warmest personal regards, I am,

Sincerely yours,


Luke Lea

LL:c

WILBER KAHLE WWII LIBERATED AND RETURNED

Bud Kahle's family was greatly relieved to learn on April 19 via telex from Bud that he was OK. A follow-up telex from the Secretary of War related his earlier liberation on April 6. On May 17 the family was notified that Bud was returning to the USA.

CLASS OF SERVICE	WESTERN UNION	SYMBOLS
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The filing time shown in the date line on telegrams and day letters is STANDARD TIME at point of origin. Time of receipt is STANDARD TIME at point of destination.		
AB 77		
A•LE 27 INTL=CD SANSORIGINE VIA RCA (74 87 32)		
EFM MRS W L KAHLE=		
ASK MUL 5792 3100 GARY DR 20 STL (A)=		
PLEASE DONT WORRY AM WELL AND FIT ARE YOU ALL RIGHT=		
W L KAHLE.		
REFER CHE 8345		
MUL 5792 10 MRS K		
PZ AB 11A 10 20 MLD		

Bud Kahle's Military Decorations:

- European-African-Middle Eastern Campaign Medal with 4 bronze service stars
- American Campaign Medal
- World War II Victory Medal
- Sergeant, Squad Leader
- Rifle Marksman Badge
- Overseas Service Bar
- Good Conduct Medal

**WILBER KAHLE WWII
LIBERATED AND RETURNED**

<p>CLASS OF SERVICE</p> <p>This is a full-rate Telegram or Cablegram unless its deferred character is indicated by a suitable symbol above or preceding the address.</p>	<h1 style="margin: 0;">WESTERN UNION</h1> <p style="font-size: small;">A. N. WILLIAMS PRESIDENT</p>	<p>1201</p>	<p>SYMBOLS</p> <table border="1" style="width: 100%; border-collapse: collapse;"> <tr><td>DL = Day Letter</td></tr> <tr><td>NL = Night Letter</td></tr> <tr><td>LC = Deferred Cable</td></tr> <tr><td>NLT = Cable Night Letter</td></tr> <tr><td>Ship Radiogram</td></tr> </table>	DL = Day Letter	NL = Night Letter	LC = Deferred Cable	NLT = Cable Night Letter	Ship Radiogram
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<p>AA66 / APR 20</p>								
<p>LA933 23 GOVT=WUX WASHINGTON DC 20 348P</p>								
<p>MRS MARY E KAHLE=</p>								
<p>3100 GARY DRIVE VELDA VILLAGE NORMANDY MO GE=</p>								
<p>THE SECRETARY OF WAR DESIRES ME TO INFORM YOU THAT YOUR</p>								
<p>HUSBAND SGT KAHLE WILBER L RETURNED TO MILITARY CONTROL 6 APR</p>								
<p>45=</p>								
<p>J A ULIO THE ADJUTANT GENERAL.</p>								
<p>L 6 45.</p>								
<p>THE COMPANY WILL APPRECIATE SUGGESTIONS FROM ITS PATRONS CONCERNING ITS SERVICE</p>								
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<p>..AH69 WN72 MAY 17, 1945</p>								
<p>W.WMUF 305 41GOVT=WUX WASHINGTON DC 17 343P</p>								
<p>MRS MARY E KAHLE=</p>								
<p>3100 GARY DRIVE VELDA VILLAGE NORMANDY MO= A</p>								
<p>THE CHIEF OF STAFF OF THE ARMY DIRECTS ME TO INFORM YOU</p>								
<p>YOUR HUSBAND S/SGT KAHLE WILBER L IS BEING RETURNED TO THE</p>								
<p>UNITED STATES WITHIN THE NEAR FUTURE AND WILL BE GIVEN AN</p>								
<p>OPPORTUNITY TO COMMUNICATE WITH YOU UPON ARRIVAL=</p>								
<p>JA ULIO THE ADJUTANT GENERAL.</p>								

The following pages show Bud Kahle's release documents.

FILED FOR RECORD DEC 12 1945 SERIAL FILE No. 11568
RUBY KOELLING, Recorder of Deeds, St. Louis, Mo.



Honorable Discharge

This is to certify that


WILBER L KAHLE 37 633 828 Staff Sergeant
11th Headquarters and Headquarters Detachment
Special Troops Fourth Army
Army of the United States

*is hereby Honorably Discharged from the military
service of the United States of America.*

*This certificate is awarded as a testimonial of Honest
and Faithful Service to this country.*

Given at Camp Hood Texas

Date 2 December 1945


HOWARD L. SHINABERGER
Lieutenant Colonel Infantry

**WILBER KAHLE WWII
LIBERATED AND RETURNED**

4. ORGANIZATION 11th Hq & Hq Det Sp Trps 4th Army				7. DATE OF SEPARATION 2 Dec 45		8. PLACE OF SEPARATION Camp Hood Texas	
9. PERMANENT ADDRESS FOR MAILING PURPOSES 3100 Gary Dr Velda Village Normandy St Louis Mo				10. DATE OF BIRTH 20 Oct 1909		11. PLACE OF BIRTH Memphis Tenn	
12. ADDRESS FROM WHICH EMPLOYMENT WILL BE BOUGHT See 9				13. COLOR EYES Grey		14. COLOR HAIR Brown	
				15. HEIGHT 5' 8 1/2"		16. WEIGHT 131 lbs	
				17. NO. DEPENDENTS 2			
18. RACE WHITE		19. MARITAL STATUS SINGLE		20. U.S. CITIZEN YES		21. CIVILIAN OCCUPATION AND NO. Chief Clerk 0-97.13	

MILITARY HISTORY

22. DATE OF INDUCTION 19 Feb 44		23. DATE OF ENLISTMENT 19 Feb 44		24. DATE OF ENTRY INTO ACTIVE SERVICE 19 Feb 44		25. PLACE OF ENTRY INTO SERVICE Jefferson Barracks Mo	
26. SELECTIVE SERVICE DATA YES <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> NO <input type="checkbox"/>		27. LOCAL S.S. BOARD NO. 24A		28. COUNTY AND STATE Independence Mo		29. HOME ADDRESS AT TIME OF ENTRY INTO SERVICE See 9	
30. MILITARY OCCUPATIONAL SPECIALTY AND NO. Squad Leader 745				31. MILITARY QUALIFICATION AND RATE (I.e., Infantry, aviation and marksmanship badges, etc.) Combat Infantryman Badge Marksman Rifle			
32. BATTLES AND CAMPAIGNS Northern France Ardennes Rhineland Central Europe							
33. DECORATIONS AND CITATIONS European-African-Middle Eastern Campaign Medal with 4 Bronze Service Stars American Campaign Medal World War II Victory Medal Good Conduct Medal *							
34. WOUNDS RECEIVED IN ACTION None							
35. LATEST IMMUNIZATION DATES SMALLPOX: 27 Jul 45 TYPHOID: 27 Jul 45 TETANUS: 27 Jul 45 OTHER (specify): Typhus 1 May 45				36. SERVICE OUTSIDE CONTINENTAL U.S. AND RETURN DATE OF DEPARTURE: 12 Aug 44 DESTINATION: E T O DATE OF ARRIVAL: 22 Aug 44			
37. TOTAL LENGTH OF SERVICE CONTINENTAL SERVICE: 1 YEAR 0 MONTHS 5 DAYS FOREIGN SERVICE: 0 YEARS 0 MONTHS 9 DAYS				38. HIGHEST GRADE HELD S Sgt			
39. PRIOR SERVICE None							
40. REASON AND AUTHORITY FOR SEPARATION Convenience of the Government AR 615-365 & RR 1-1 (Demobilization) and TWX Hq 4th Army GHWAG 11-468 (17 Nov 45)							
41. SERVICE SCHOOLS ATTENDED None						42. EDUCATION (Years) Grammar: 8 High School: 4 College: 0	

PAY DATA 47603

43. LONGEVITY PAY PURPOSES YEARS: 1 MONTHS: 9 DAYS: 14		44. BIRTHDAY PAY TOTAL: 300 THIS PAYMENT: 100		45. SOLICIT DEPOSIT: None		46. TRAVEL PAY: 40.50		47. TOTAL AMOUNT, NAME OF DISBURSING OFFICER 140.50 J M HAYS JR Capt FI	
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INSURANCE NOTICE

48. KIND OF INSURANCE SGL: 100% CGL: 100%		49. HOW PAID Allocation: X Direct to V. A.		50. Effective Date of Assignment Discontinuance 30 Nov 45		51. Date of Next Premium Due (One month after 50) 31 Dec 45		52. PREMIUM DUE EACH MONTH 7.50		53. INTENTION OF VETERAN Continuing: X Continuing only: 1	
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54. SIGNATURE OF PERSON BEING SEPARATED
Wilber L Kahle

55. REMARKS (This space for completion of above items or entry of other items specified in W. D. Directives)
Lapel Button issued
ASR Score (2 Sep 45) 59
* 1 Overseas Service Bar

56. PERSONNEL OFFICER (Type name, grade and commission - signature):
WALLACE E FRODOCK JR
1st Lt Inf *Wallace E Frodock*

WD AGO FORM 82-58
1 November 1944

This form supersedes all previous editions of WD AGO Forms 53 and 55 for enlisted persons entitled to an Honorable Discharge, which will not be used after receipt of this revision.