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317-INP-0.3  
(501)

**WAR DEPARTMENT  
THE ADJUTANT GENERAL'S OFFICE  
WASHINGTON**

(17070)  
Master



507th Parachute Infantry Unit History, (OPNS)

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**WAR DEPARTMENT RECORDS BRANCH, A.G.O.  
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Jan 45, 24 Mar - 30  
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57-247

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HEADQUARTERS 507TH PARACHUTE INFANTRY  
Office of the Regimental Commander  
A.P.O. 230, U. S. Army

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2 February 1945

UNIT HISTORY

New Year's day 1945 the 507th Parachute Infantry Regiment<sup>was</sup> at Fumay, France holding the line of the Meuse River from Givet exclusive to Nouzen. 2nd January the order to move to the Bastogne area was received and the first elements of the Regiment moved out that day for Semel. March order was 3rd battalion, 2nd battalion and 1st battalion. The 3rd battalion moved out 2nd January 1945 completing the journey that day. The 1st and 2nd battalions were halted by friendly roadblocks southeast of Bievre. Both battalions were forced to retrace their route to Fumay, France arriving at Trequoy, Belgium at 0200 January 4, 1945 via Fumay, Charleville, Bouillon, Neufchateau. Regimental C.P. was established at Chenet (4053 map 1:50,000 Bastogne) at 2030 the 3rd of January 1945. The Regiment was in Division reserve. The evening of 4 January 1945 the regiment moved to Margerotte still in Division reserve. Regimental C.P. was established in the woods at 445559 with the 2nd battalion to the left of the road, 3rd battalion to the right of the road and the first battalion in reserve, defense lines being generally the north edge of woods with OPL on heights beyond overlooking Gerimont, Acul, and Pinsamont. Numerous casualties were caused by enemy anti-personnel mines strewn through the woods. 5th January 1945 the 3rd battalion occupied Acul and Pinsamont without opposition. 7th January 1945 the regiment less 3rd battalion moved to an area north of Chenogne with regimental C.P. in woods at 474574, 2nd battalion on the right, 1st battalion on the left, third battalion still in Pinsamont, Chisogne area.

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DOD Dir. 52009, Sept. 27, 1958  
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Regiment was still in Division reserve front lines generally along the north edge of woods. At 0200 8 January 1945 the 3rd battalion attacked and seized hill 450 north of Chisogne against little opposition. On the objective however, the enemy retaliated with artillery fire so effectively that many good men were killed and wounded. Among the killed were Major John P. Davis commander of the 3rd battalion and father John J. Verret, regimental Chaplain. With Captain Allen W. Taylor in command, the 3rd battalion held hill 450 until ordered to withdraw by Commanding General, 17th A/B Division. During the two (2) days they held hill 450 ~~XXXXXXXX~~ two (2) enemy counter-attacks were broken up, numerous enemy troops were killed and two (2) tanks were knocked out. In these two (2) days the battalion lost 22 killed, 85 wounded and 6 missing. Major Roy E. Creek succeeded Captain Taylor in command of the 3rd battalion. On 8th January 1945 1st battalion was attacked by five (5) enemy tanks. Certain misunderstandings between the anti-tank unit in support and ourselves led to guns not being fired. The regimental C.O. being present immediately placed one (1) 507th Parachute Infantry Officer in charge of each AT gun. Three (3) tanks were knocked out and the other two (2) withdrew. The 3rd battalion on the 9th January 1945 rejoined regiment in regimental reserve. 10th January 1945 the regimental C.P. was established at 493579, 2nd battalion on the right, 1st on the left and 3rd in reserve, front lines being generally along the line 500600-470600. On 12th January 1945 the 2nd battalion pushed a patrol from "D" Company forward into a woods south of Flamizouille driving the Germans out and taking ~~with~~<sup>23</sup> ~~few~~ prisoners. The Germans counter-attacked with tanks inflicting some casualties and driving our patrols back. On 13th January 1945 the regiment attacked in the course of the day, seized Flamizouille, Frenet, Givry, and Gives against little opposition. That night the C.P.

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Page three (3) Unit History (Continued).

was established at Frenet. 2nd battalion in position west of Gives, 1st battalion at Givry and 3rd battalion on hill 470. Next day 14th January 1945 the attack was resumed. At 0815 the 1st battalion occupied Bertogne 15 minutes before the schedule time of attack and there they were shelled all day. At 1020 the 3rd battalion rapidly advanced to the Ourthe river where contact was made with the British 51st Highland Division north of the river. This contact firmly closed the bulge and concluded the second or American battle of the Ardennes Forrest. Regimental C.P. was established at Bethement, 1st occupied Bertogne and the 3rd battalion occupied positions on the south bank of the Ourthe River. The regiment occupied these positions until 17th January 1945 when they moved east towards Heuffalize relieving the 193rd Glider Infantry. The regiment set up it's C.P. 1½ mile east of Heuffalize while the battalions took up positions with front lines on Cowan Creek, 3rd battalion on the right, 1st battalion on the left and second battalion in reserve. The regiment stayed until 20 January 1945 patrolling and probing the enemy positions on the other side of the Creek. On 20 January 1945 the regiment attacked, crossed Cowan creek and took Cowan, Visseule and Alhoumont. C.P. spent the night at Alhoumont and the next day the attack was continued and Getteru, Chateau Liherraine, Steinbach and Limerle fell to our arms. The regimental C.P. was set up at Limerle with the battalions disposed, 2nd on the right, 1st on the left and 3rd in reserve with front lines generally from Halt 708740 through 715755 to 713763. On arrival at Limerle the town was subject to intense enemy artillery fire for some hours after occupations. That evening Major Creek commander of the third battalion stepped on an anti-personnel mine which resulted in his evacuation.

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His command was taken by Major Allen W. Taylor. On 23rd January 1945 the 513th Parachute Infantry passed through the regiment which reverted to Division reserve. On 26 January 1945 the regiment moved to Eschweiler, Luxembourg (718568) and the next day to Clervaux where it was put into line on the Our River. On this move Lt. Col. Ben F. Pearson commanding the 1st battalion ran over a mine and was seriously injured and evacuated. His place was taken by Major Paul E. Smith. In the northern part of our sector the enemy were quickly driven across the river. In the southern part however he stubbornly maintained a bridgehead near Roderhausen west of Dasburg (853623). Every day conflicts between patrols and small units took place west of the river and east of the north south grid line 83 and between east west grid line 60 & 63.

During the whole period of this month's operations the weather was severe. There was a blanket of snow two (2) or three (3) feet deep everywhere throughout the period, and in some places much deeper. The temperature was constantly below freezing and at times below 0 degrees Fahrenheit. There was several snow storms. Without previous winter training this regiment had to learn how to fight and to sleep in the snow, how to keep feet warm and dry and how to make K, C and 10 & 1 rations palatable without fires. Most of our casualties were caused by the weather which resulted in frozen feet, exhaustion and indigestion from frozen foods. The total casualties from all causes for the month were 46 officers and 633 enlisted men.

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